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Rajiv fate in balance as India goes to polls

Troops fan out, violence rocks Srinagar, 500 million to vote

NEW DELHI, Nov 21, (Agencies): Security forces fanned out across India today as ballot boxes were ready for the world's largest electorate to decide the fate of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his beleaguered Congress Party.

More than 100,000 troops of the paramilitary Central Reserve Police were deployed to bolster local police forces and to try to prevent violence that has already claimed 28 lives since the election was announced a month ago.

The Press Trust of India said an independent candidate was shot dead in the southern state of Karnataka by motorcycle-borne gunmen, who sprayed bullets into his automobile and sped away. No arrests were reported.

In northeastern Tripura, the news agency said, an activist of Rajiv's Congress (I) Party was killed and two others wounded in a bomb attack in the state capital of Agartala by members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

A labourer hired in New Delhi by the Congress (I) Party to post campaign propaganda was stabbed to death and a companion was wounded in an attack by two unidentified men, the news agency said. No further details were immediately available.

Meanwhile, daylong violence rocked Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, 400 miles (650 km) north of New Delhi, and other towns of the Kashmir valley, where Muslim fundamentalists have called a boycott of parliamentary elections.

Hundreds of Muslim youths torched several public buildings and shops and detonated homemade bombs as they battled security forces, who fired tear-gas, staged baton charges and loosed warning shots into the air.

Protesters chanted slogans supporting radical demands for India's only predominantly Muslim state to secede and merge with the neighbouring Islamic republic of Pakistan, which disputes India's claim to the western Himalayan region.

Officials said more than 125 people, including 50 police officers, were injured in the rioting, the latest outbreak of violence that has plagued the state all year.

Hundreds of thousands of security forces have been deployed in Kashmir and other states to avert unrest during the elections.

In eastern Orissa state, authorities have trained pigeons to carry messages from remote regions to the state police.

Fifteen of India's 24 states and five of its seven federally ruled territories vote tomorrow, and the rest of the country goes to the polls on Friday and Sunday.

More than 6,000 candidates are vying for 524 of the 543 seats in the Lok Sabha, or house of the people, the policy-making lower house of Parliament that will choose the next prime minister. Voting has been indefinitely postponed in eastern Assam state because electoral polls are incomplete and delayed in several constituencies due to candidates' deaths.

During the often-bitter month-long campaign, Rajiv attempted to depict the election as a simple choice between the stability that his government could provide or the chaos of an opposition government.

But Rajiv's Congress Party and the opposing National Front have presented similar election platforms.

The National Front, a coalition of five parties with differing ideological agendas and held together by little more than a common opposition to Rajiv, has made government corruption the centrepiece of its campaign.

Rajiv, in his own race for a seat in Parliament, appears to hold the advantage in his Amethi constituency.

UAE orders

Papers banned for booze ad

ABU DHABI, Nov 21, (AP): Two English-language newspapers that published advertisements of the new French Beaujolais wine were ordered suspended from publication for one day by the government of this Islamic federation today.

An advertisement for Le Beaujolais Nouveau being served at the Abu Dhabi Sheraton Hotel appeared in the Khaleej Times and Gulf News over the weekend.

It roused official ire for violating the local ban against alcohol. Liquor advertisements are strictly banned throughout the federation.

Jeff Robinson said, "but the evidence will clearly establish a direct link between the intelligence operation Marcos set up in the United States to smash any opposition to his regime, and the death of Domingo and Vienes."

The two men, both of Philippine descent but born and raised in Washington state, were anti-Marcos activists who had plans to spend time in the Philippines investigating alleged brutalities by the Marcos regime.

Three men were convicted of killing Domingo and Vienes — Pompeyo Guloy Jr., Jimmie Ramil



Here's lookin' at you...kids

When you are 115 years old, you ought to be able to do exactly what you want.

So nobody complained when Came White spent Monday's celebration of her birthday snoozing.

Mrs White finally awakened after the party to eat a piece of birthday cake, while dozens of photographs snapped her picture.

"It's quite an honour to be associated with a spunky lady that has made such an achievement," said Marjorie Allen, Mrs White's guardian for the past five years.

Mrs White received a certificate Monday from the Guinness Book of Records identifying her as the oldest authenticated living person.

The gray-haired woman, who likes to chew tobacco and munch on fig-flavoured biscuits, actually turned 115 on Saturday. She began the day Monday with a trip to the beauty salon.

The party attended by about 800 people took place in a big blue and white tent on the ground of Putnam Memorial Nursing Home in Palatka, Florida, where Mrs White has lived for the past 11 years.

UK stress on free market

Queen spells out policy

LONDON, Nov 21, (AP): The government has pledged loyalty to Nato and a strong military posture, while outlining fresh union-curbing laws at home.

The government's legislative programme for 1990, summarised in a speech by Queen Elizabeth II to Parliament, also includes measures to deregulate broadcasting, loosen up areas of the legal system and national health service, and prepare the state-owned coal industry for sale on the stock market.

The speech, written by government ministers and read by the monarch to the House of Lords, signalled a continuation of the free-market doctrines that have typified Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's decade in office.

It also indicated Mrs Thatcher had ignored advice to slow down her economic crusade.

"My government will continue to attach the highest priority to national and Western security and to the preservation of peace with freedom and justice," the Queen told the Lords, the unelected upper chamber.

"They will stand by their obligations to the Nato alliance and will continue to sustain the United Kingdom's contribution to Western defence by maintaining adequate and effective nuclear and conventional forces," she said.

The government will work for arms control, while leading "every possible encouragement and support to the remarkable changes taking place in Poland, Hungary and now in East Ger-



Queen Elizabeth and Duke of Edinburgh walk through the royal gallery.

many. They will work to ensure that these take place within a stable Europe," she said.

In domestic affairs, the speech heralded a contentious year ahead.

On foreign affairs, the speech pledged to:

- "Continue to support the right of the Afghan people to choose for themselves a fully representative government."
- "Work for peace in the Middle East, Southern Africa and Cambodia."
- "Work vigorously and with determination to restore confidence in Hong Kong, building on the foundation of the Sino-British joint declaration" whereby the British colony is to revert to Chinese rule in 1997.

Pakistani gets death for rape

A PAKISTANI has been sentenced to death on a charge of raping a woman at knife point.

The Criminal Court was told that the defendant knew the victim and her husband. The husband had offered to give him and his wife lodgings when they first arrived in Kuwait in order to give them time to search for a decent flat and establish a tailoring business.

The two wives frequently quarrelled, accusing each other of stealing. The defendant said the victim used to slander his wife by claiming she used to steal articles.

When the time came for the couple to leave their hosts' house, the defendant said he planned his revenge by forcing his friend's wife to succumb to his sexual desires. For this purpose, he made sure that her husband was out of the house and gained entrance on the excuse that he still had some belongings there and wanted to move them to his flat.

Once he was inside he took out a 10 cm blade knife, grabbed the victim by the hand and pulled her into the bedroom and onto the bed, forcing her to take off her clothes and allow him to have his way.

Cries and pleas by the victim could not dissuade him from continuing. When he finished he warned her not to tell anyone, otherwise he would kill her. He then left the house.

Zaikov gets promotion

MOSCOW, Nov 21, (AP): Lev N. Zaikov, the hardline communist who has served as party boss in Moscow for the past two years, was promoted today to President Mikhail Gorbachev's top deputy on the Soviet defence council.

Party officials called the move a promotion for Zaikov, who is also a member of the ruling Soviet Politburo.

3,576-year jail for corruption

MANILA, Nov 21, (Reuters): A Philippine anti-graft court yesterday sentenced a former government official to a maximum 3,576 years in jail for corruption.

Public highways regional director Rolando Mangubat was also ordered to pay the government 43 million pesos (\$2 million) in fines.

Mangubat pleaded guilty, in 392 cases, to falsifying purchase orders and other documents to collect funds for "ghost" or non-existent projects.

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The cars damaged in high-speed chase race with smugglers.



Culprits held in chase

By Nawaf Al Hameli

DANGEROUS high-speed chase by concert lasted for over three hours took place at dawn yesterday in Rigga by roads between two cars used by smugglers and a number of police patrol vehicles.

The smugglers' vehicles, one of which was a van, were loaded with Iranian cheese. During the chase the van overturned and was completely damaged along with over 70 cases of cheese.

Two private cars were also involved, and some damage was sustained by police cars.

The police also succeeded in arresting the smugglers in the second car well on the Seventh Ring Road.

The smugglers were arrested, their number was not immediately known.

Two of the smugglers in the van were identified as Mohammed H. and M. both Arabs.

The chase began in Jahra area where a police patrol became suspicious of the persons in the two vehicles.

The patrol chased them along a stretch of highways and then onto up a north-western Ring Road.

Police patrols from Ahmedi were also alerted and asked for assistance. The patrols arranged an ambush on the Seventh Ring Road and succeeded in stopping one of the vehicles, a pickup and caught its driver, a van continued to run away.

The driver and his companion in the van then started shooting at the Sandforce patrols, but nobody was injured.

While some of the police patrols attempted to chase the van towards Iran, Uganda and Rigga areas, others made a barrier of several police cars on the road ahead of the van. The driver tried to jump the barrier, his vehicle overturned after hitting with a private car parked by side of the road.

Weather
 CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather with moderate north-westerly wind.
 Sea: Moderate.
 Air: 20°C to 28°C.
 Water: 20°C to 28°C.
 Humidity: 60-80%.
 Wind: 15-25 km/h.
 Rain: 10-20 mm.
 Visibility: 4-5 km.
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Islamic states may put pressure on Aquino

MANILA, (Reuters): President Corason Aquino is likely to face fresh pressure from Islamic states for peace talks with Muslim rebels after voters overwhelmingly rejected her government's autonomy proposals for the southern Philippines.

But the government, despite suffering its first electoral defeat in Sunday's plebiscite since being swept to power in 1986, appears reluctant to reopen talks with the separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

"It's very difficult for the government to accede to the impossible demands of (MNLF chairman) Nur Misuari," said Philippine Local Government Secretary Luis Santos on Tuesday.

Only three or four Muslim

areas of the southern Philippines opted for the autonomy plan, while Christian-dominated areas rejected the proposals by majorities of up to 90 per cent.

Analysts said provinces which voted to join the proposed autonomous area were divided by both distance and traditional tribal rivalries, making the plan almost unworkable.

Muslim Senator Saturnina Rasul urged the government to resume talks with the MNLF possibly under the auspices of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to bring peace to Mindanao, divided by decades of bloodshed.

The 45-nation OIC, chief backer of separatist Muslim rebels in Mindanao, had asked for the plebiscite to be cancelled

but Manila dismissed the suggestion.

Asian and Middle Eastern diplomats said they expected the OIC to press Manila to renew talks with the MNLF in the search for a workable and acceptable autonomous region. Rasul said the OIC was the only group that could convince Misuari to shift what she termed his "rigid" position.

But secretary Santos told reporters Misuari had been overtaken by events, and the guerrilla leader would lose his political clout with the creation of the autonomous region.

The MNLF wants 13 provinces in the southern Philippines to be given autonomy, with the MNLF controlling a regional security force. Manila has rejected

Muslim rebels kill militiamen in south Philippines

COTABATO, Philippines, Nov 21, (AP): Suspected Muslim rebels today killed three government militiamen working as security guards of a logging company in the southern Philippines, the military said.

Capt Peraco Macacua, area military commander, said the killing took place on the outskirts of Parang town in Maguindanao province, just north of this city and about 880 kilometres (550 miles) south of Manila.

Macacua said about 40 Muslim rebels swooped down on a remote government outpost and opened fire on the militiamen who were taking an early morning bath.

He said the rebels took the slain militiamen's rifles before escaping to a nearby forest. The rebels also exploded a home-made bomb near the area to delay the approach of government troops.

The militiamen were slain, allegedly for working as security guards of a logging company in the area, sources said. They added that the logging company had refused to pay protection money to the rebels and hired security guards, mostly militiamen, to protect their logging operation.

ted the proposal.

Aquino herself played down the impact of the crushing defeat for the government's autonomy proposals, saying it was a victory for democracy that so many voted.

She said she would not be

bullied into negotiating with the MNLF. "First of all, we should not be talking simply because we are being threatened," she told reporters when asked if she was willing to resume talks with the guerrillas in light of the Mindanao vote.

The MNLF, which launched a separatist war that killed more than 50,000 people in the 1970s, had warned of renewed war if Manila pushed its autonomy plan through.

Aquino said she would consult the Congress on the next steps to

take and, alluding to the MNLF threat, added, "we should not really encourage people to threaten us with acts of violence."

Armed Forces Chief-of-Staff General Renato de Villa told reporters on Tuesday that despite the MNLF call for a boycott of the poll, in some Muslim areas there had been a large vote.

"This could be interpreted that the MNLF does not have that much influence over the people," he declared.

In the southern city of Zamboanga, Muslims mostly boycotted the poll, but in some other traditional Muslim areas such as Lanao del Sur and the southern islands of Sulu there was a strong vote in favour of autonomy.

Typhoon sinks boat, 6 die

MANILA, Nov 21, (AP): Six warnings were declared in Manila today as typhoon Hunt approached the area, after killing six people.

The six were drowned on Sunday when their boat sank in heavy seas, the Philippines news agency reported.

Hunt, packing winds of 160 kilometres (100 miles) per hour, was located 150 kilometres (94 miles) east of the coastal town of Infanta in Quezon province, 213 kilometres (134 miles) east of Manila, late this afternoon.

It was moving at 15 kilometres (9 miles) per hour and expected to hit Polilio island off the coast of Infanta around midnight and reach Quezon before dawn tomorrow, forecaster Nanette Lomarda said.

The news agency said big waves from the typhoon on Sunday struck a boat off Calangue, Quezon, 100 kilometres (60 miles) southeast of Manila, killing six of its 16 passengers, including two children. It was not immediately known what happened to the 10 others.

Lomarda said if the typhoon continues its current course, it will cut through six provinces north of Manila, including Bulacan, just north of the capital, and Pampanga, home to Clark Air Base, a US installation.

Maximum storm warnings have been raised in Manila and 11 provinces.

Authorities cancelled classes in areas in maximum alert and the Coast Guard prohibited small ferries from leaving Manila.

Hunt is the 17th typhoon this year to hit the Philippines, which is struck by an average of 20 storms and typhoons annually.

Countdown begins for Thursday morning launch

Transpacific hot-air balloon flight

TOKYO, Nov 21, (UPI): Phileas Fogg, the famed British adventurer who travelled "around the world in 80 days" in the Jules Verne classic, might be envious of the "daring-do" of today's high-tech, hot air balloonists.

In the remote town of Miyakonojo in southwestern Japan, the countdown began today for the lift-off of the world's biggest ever hot-air balloon — taller than the Statue of Liberty and wider than a 747 — which plans to sail the jetstream across the Pacific to the United States in less than 50 hours.

Briton Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic Airways, and Swedish balloon designer Per Lindstrand, hope to fire up the propane burners in their pressurized gondola the size of an Apollo space capsule shortly after dawn on Thursday.

If all goes well, the mammoth silver-coloured balloon will rise into the sub-tropical jetstream about an hour after liftoff at an altitude of some 31,000 feet and be carried at speeds up to 200 mph in

a direct shot to either northern California or southern Oregon in 30-50 hours.

Branson and Lindstrand, who teamed in 1987 to successfully cross the Atlantic in a much smaller balloon, will be attempting the first Pacific crossing in a hot-air balloon, a distance of some 6,200 miles.

The helium-filled Double Eagle V, piloted by Ben Abruzzo, became the first manned balloon to make the transpacific flight from Japan to the United States in November 1981, ending in a crash landing in rugged northern California mountains.

"We are 90 per cent confident of a launch at 6.30 am Thursday (2130 GMT Wednesday)," said project spokesman Mark Harvey.

"If everything goes smoothly, we will cross north of San Francisco for a landing either in northern California or southern Oregon," he said.

While the helium-filled Double Eagle had virtually no controls and was at the complete mercy of the winds, the pilots of the Pacific flyer will be able to

manoeuvre the balloon up and down until it is centred in the core of the jetstream.

While enabling the balloon to travel at much higher altitude and greater speed than the helium-filled craft, it poses greater danger.

"If we don't enter the jetstream correctly, the balloon can be torn apart by winds pulling at the craft from different directions, called 'wind shear,'" Harvey said.

"The most critical part of the flight is the first 90 minutes as we enter the jetstream. That is when technical failure is most likely to occur," he said.

He said the Japanese self-defence force, the nation's military, has placed a giant "flying boat" rescue aircraft on call in case the pilots are forced to ditch into sea.

The Pacific flyer, 197 feet (60 metres) high, 141 feet (43 metres) in diameter and weighing 80 tons when fully inflated, boasts the most advanced technology of any balloon ever built.



Branson (right) and Lindstrand do the final radio check inside the hot-air balloon capsule at Miyakonojo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cairo custody battle

(Continued from Page 1)

things. He told the court he had seen his mother in bed with another man, that his mother had made him eat pork and had taken him to a Christian church.

Louxor told Reuters Mergazi then stood up in court and said "I divorce my wife." She suggested he made the statement because people were asking why he was

prepared to condemn her as a bad Muslim but still remain married.

According to the mother's lawyer, the father wanted to show a videotape of an American television broadcast in which he said Mezo had insisted Islam.

"I don't have any idea what they said. It was all in Arabic," said Mezo. "How can I defend myself if I don't know what everyone is saying."

Novelist Haines dies of stroke

LOS ANGELES, Nov 21, (AP): Adventure novelist William Wister Haines, whose World War II-era work "Command Decision" was made into a 1949 movie starring Clark Gable, has died of a stroke. He was 81.

Haines died on Saturday aboard the cruise ship Island Princess of Acapulco, his daughter, Mrs Murray J. Belman, said yesterday.

Rye fungus may have caused the Great Fear of 1789 in France, says author

WASHINGTON, Nov 21, (AP): A wave of panic that was one of the key events of the French revolution was probably triggered by peasants who ate bread made from Rye wheat infected with a hallucinogenic fungus, a historian argues in a new book.

Mary Kilbourne Matossian, an associate professor of history at the University of Maryland, contends that a phenomenon known to historians as the Great Fear of 1789 was most likely caused

by consumption of rye bread infected with the fungus ergot.

Ergot contains the alkaloid lysergic acid, from which LSD is extracted.

Previous studies have linked the fungus to waves of panic that led to witch trials in parts of Europe and in colonial Massachusetts in the 17th century.

In linking it with the great fear, Matossian disputes the view of many historians that the phenomenon was a revolt by peasants who resented paying taxes and

tithes.

"In the spring of 1789 there were peasant protests against the food shortage and 'feudal' practices, but the great fear of July and August was mainly a panic, not a protest," she writes in "Poisons of the Past: Molds, Epidemics and History."

However, R. Emmet Kennedy Jr., professor of European history at George Washington University and an authority on the French revolution, put little stock in Matossian's thesis.

"I am not a biologist and haven't investigated, but I simply haven't taken it very seriously," he said in an interview.

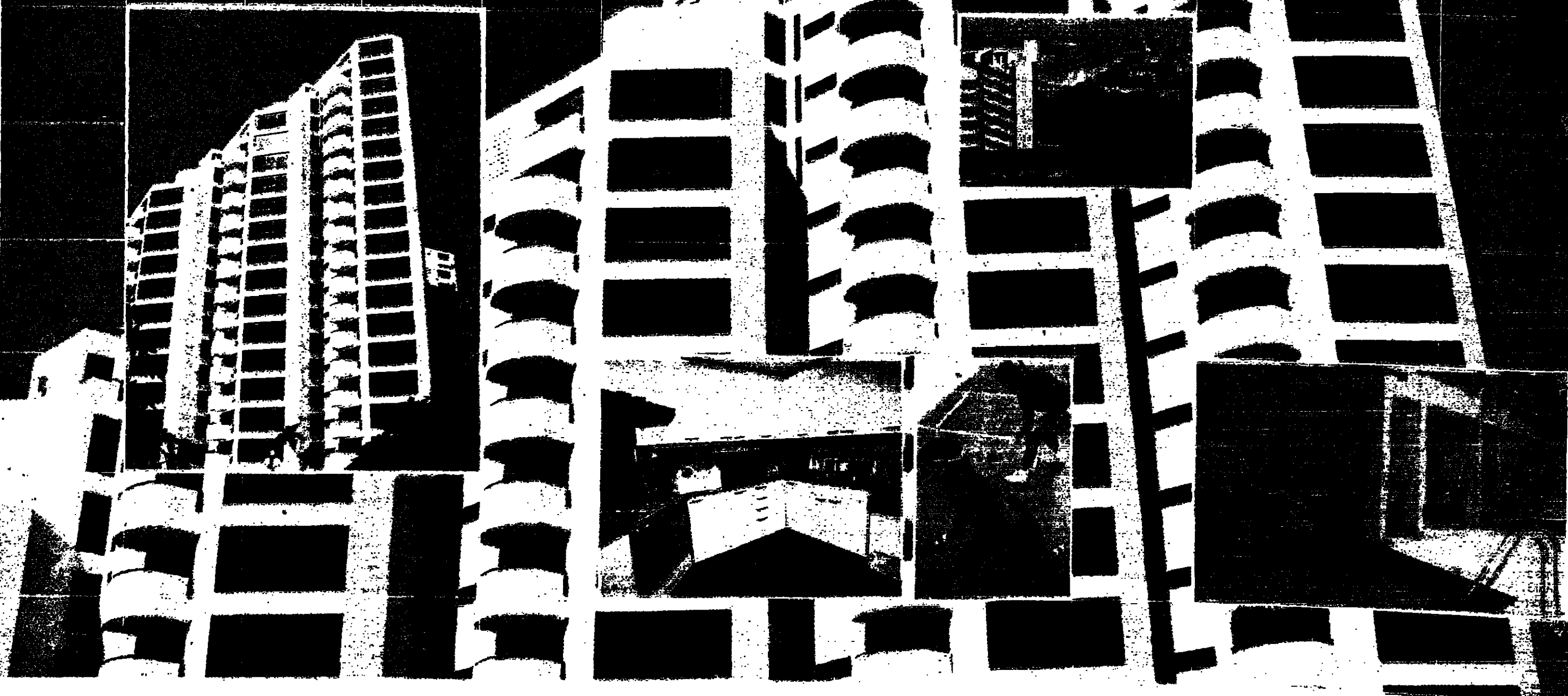
"We believe that the great fear was caused by the revolution in Paris, the storming of the Bastille and specifically by the fear that the aristocrats were going to wage a counter-revolution against that revolution in Paris and Versailles and that they were setting loose brigands into the countryside to destroy their crops," Kennedy said.

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INTERNATIONAL

First UN convention on rights of child

It's children's Magna Carta, says Unicef chief

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 21. (AP) Children have the inalienable right to grow up in a healthy environment free from abuse or exploitation, the General Assembly declared yesterday in adopting a global convention on the rights of the child.

"For children, this is the Magna Carta," said James Grant executive director of the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef), likening it to the 13th century British constitution guaranteeing political and civil liberties.

With over 180 children watching from the galleries, Secretary-General

eral Javier Perez de Cuellar declared it "the most important step towards realizing our common purpose of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedom for all."

The convention is "as visionary as it is timely," Perez de Cuellar said, noting it "addresses the needs of humanity's most vulnerable and most cherished resource."

The UN children's fund and many governments and private agencies say the agreement sets new standards they can use to fight neglect, sexual exploitation and other abuse.

Baby swap cattle

SARASOTA, Florida, Nov 21. (AP) Two families tried in separate ways yesterday to deal with the knowledge they raised each other's child, and a legal battle loomed against a hospital their lawyers blame for switching newborns.

Robert Mays said Kimberly, who he raised since birth more than 10 years ago and just discovered isn't his real daughter.

Kimberly Michelle Mays is really the child of Ernest and Regina Twigg, according to the genetic blood tests.

Attorneys for both families said the tests also showed that Arlena, the daughter the Twigg's raised, was born to Mays and his wife, Barbara, who died of heart disease last year.

When Mays was told Sunday that his only biological child had died, the first thing he asked was the name of her grave, said his attorney, Arthur Ginsburg.

The parents say the girls were born a few days apart in late 1978 and early 1979.

Twigg's lawyer said the hospital was negligent in not checking the babies' identities.



Bay Bridge reopens

The daily morning commute on the Bay Bridge on Nov 20, the first business day following bridge repairs after a quake, were completed. (Reuter wirephoto)

Canadian federal firm finances strip club.

OTTAWA, Nov 21. (AP) A federal Crown corporation has loaned more than \$1 million to the largest strip club in the national capital, Radio-Canada reported last night.

The Federal Business Development Bank made loans totalling 1,309,000 Canadian dollars (2 million US) to proprietor Andre Frechette could get Le Lido bar off the ground in downtown Hull, across the river from Ottawa, the French-language television network of the CBC said.

Le Lido is billed as an erotic bar and employs about 20 young female strippers.

A bank spokesman, Ken Cavanagh, said yesterday morning that "The bank does not finance nude-dancing clubs."

But later in the day a spokesman for the bank refused comment, saying information obtained by Radio-Canada concerns a confidential relationship between the bank and Frechette.



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"It sets universally accepted standards to protect almost half of the world's population," said Jan Martenson, UN under-secretary-general for human rights.

The convention has engendered controversy, however. It allows anyone 15 or older to be drafted into military service, a provision supported by US President George Bush's administration.

More than 95,000 child soldiers lost their lives in the Iran-Iraq war, and over 200,000 15-to-17-year-olds serve in various armed forces world-wide today.

Norway, Sweden, France, West Germany, Italy, Spain, Australia, Canada, Mexico and other nations wanted the draft age raised to at least 17, and the Soviet Union was willing to agree with that standard.

The United States, however, held out on the grounds that the 1949 Geneva conventions on warfare and their 1977 additional protocols specify the age of 15 and the new convention should conform to that international agreement.

"It goes without saying that among the 159 member states of the United Nations, you can't muster equal enthusiasm among everyone for everything that is in, or perhaps not in, the convention," Martenson said of the issue.

The convention sets the end of childhood at age 18, but does not say whether childhood begins at birth or earlier, a key controversy dividing anti-abortion and pro-choice advocates.

Jordan and Algeria's representatives said they would not be bound by a clause requiring adoption agencies for orphans, saying it is irrelevant because their nations' Islamic law guarantees protection of children.

"The cultural conventions with regard to children vary widely around the world, and to get one common document is a near-miracle in its own right," Grant told reporters.

Adoption of the new convention came on the 30th anniversary of the declaration of the rights of the child, which had no legally binding effect on nations.

It wraps together all international laws on rights of minors, which were scattered among more than 80 treaties and declarations dated over the last 60 years.

When at least 20 nations ratify the convention, it will become binding on ratifying nations.

Many more countries are expected to sign quickly, but ratification requires a country to bring all its laws into line with the convention.

The convention deliberately glosses over contentious issues such as abortion, for example. It states only in US-supported preamble in the non-binding preamble that children deserve special protection "before as well as after birth."

The legally binding text makes no reference to when childhood begins.

Recognition of children as individuals with inalienable rights began under international law in 1924, when the League of Nations adopted the Geneva declaration on children's rights, abolishing the custom of treating children as the property of their father.

The new conventional also guarantees a child the right to enjoy a family life, and extends international legal protection to the adoption procedure.

Children cannot be separated from their parents, except for the child's well-being, under another provision.

They also cannot be sold into prostitution, slavery, or exploited as bonded labourers to pay off parents' debts.

Analysis Page 10

NEW YORK: A sniper shot a police officer in the chest and back, but his bulletproof vest saved him from serious injury, authorities said.

Officer Michael Lisi, 33, had just finished writing a traffic ticket Sunday evening when he heard a shot from a wooded area along the Staten Island, said Sergeant Edward Burns, a police spokesman.

Lisi ran into the woods to investigate and felt something hit him in the chest, Burns said. He turned and another shot hit him on the back, the spokesman said.

Lisi was taken to Staten Island Hospital for a minor injury, Burns said.

Police did not believe the shooting was connected to the traffic ticket.

No arrests were made and the weapon was not recovered. (AP)

DETROIT, Michigan: Six works by turn-of-the-century Western artist Frederic Remington that had been languishing in an attic for decades were snapped up at auction for more than \$1.2 million.

The centerpiece of Sunday's auction at the Duessechelle Art Gallery was Remington's number 2 bronze casting of "Cheyenne" — a horse and rider piece that was expected to sell for \$100,000 to \$200,000. New York art collector Charles Wood paid \$605,000.

The works originally were bought by Michigan industrialist William M. Mott, a collector of American art. When he died in 1936, his artworks were divided between two daughters. Two generations passed before the Remington pieces were discovered in an attic in Lansing this fall. (AP)

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota: Dick Beardsley was one among the top marathon runners in the United States. But following surgery on his left leg, which was mangled in a farm accident, doctors and friends are hoping that he will walk again.

"The goal right now is to get Dick to be able to walk again and hopefully be able to work on the farm. The posture for Dick to ever run even recreationally are not being discussed," said Beardsley's coach, Bill Weismant.

Beardsley finished second in the 1983 Boston Marathon, and his time of two hours, eight minutes and 53 seconds remains one of the fastest ever by a US runner. He retired from marathons last year.

Beardsley, 33, was transferring corn to a crib on Nov 13 when his coveralls got caught in a drive shaft used to power farm equipment. He suffered cuts on his calf muscles in his left leg and severe ligament damage to the left knee. (AP)

ROME: Nuns in a Roman convent were startled when a block of green ice shattered one of their windows Sunday. Authorities said it appeared the ice may have fallen from an airplane.

After the green ice crashed through the window, the nuns called the police, claiming they had been struck by meteors, the Rome-based daily Il Tempo said. They then put it in the freezer.

Firefighters carrying gripper counters rushed to the San Felice de Castalia Convent in central Rome, followed by an expert from the National Centre for Research, who determined the ice was emitting no radiation, the daily reported.

After shattering the window the ice broke into three pieces, each about the size of a fist. They weighed a total of about two pounds (0.9 kilograms), it said.

It was not clear why the ice was green. (AP)

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II will visit the Canadian province of Alberta next summer Buckingham Palace announced Monday night in a statement.

It said that during her June 27-July 1 visit she will undertake engagements with the Calgary Highlanders and King's Own Regiment of which she is honorary colonel-in-chief. (AP)

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Killer sentenced

Steven Smith, a former mental patient and drifter, listens to Justice James Leff in state Supreme Court on Nov 20 as he is sentenced to the maximum 50 years to life in prison for the sodomy murder, rape and robbery of a pregnant Bellevue Hospital doctor. Smith will be 73 before he is eligible for parole. (Reuter wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Classics auctioned

Driver John Cary sits upon a 1938 Brough Superior SS 100, 1000cc motorcycle (estimated value \$22,000) in front of a 1931 Rolls-Royce Phantom 1 (right) and a 1912 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost (estimated value of £250,000 and £700,000) on Nov 20. These are all included in a sale of Important and Early Classics Vehicles to be auctioned by Sotheby's on Dec 4. (Reuter wirephoto)

Nasa plans man on Mars

WASHINGTON, Nov 21. (AP) The US space agency has fleshed out President George Bush's vision of American outposts on the moon and Mars with a script that would have four humans arriving on the red planet in 2011 and returning for a 600-day stay in 2018.

The study by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration does not contain any cost estimates, but Richard Danner, director of the US office of management and budget, has put the price tag of going to Mars in the 400-billion-dollar range.

Bush set forth his goals in July, and was widely criticized for proposing an ambitious program without suggesting how it would be funded.

The report envisions space station freedom, which is scheduled to be completed in 1999, becoming "a transportation node where both lunar and Mars vehicles will be assembled, tested, launched and refurbished to fly again."

The report was commissioned by Nasa administrator Richard Truly to provide a database for the national space council as it considers approaches for meeting the president's goals.

"We will not stop at the moon," the report said, "because the imperative to explore will lead men and women to Mars. The planet most like earth, Mars offers many unique scientific opportunities, but perhaps the most intriguing question is whether life exists or has ever existed on Mars."

Life may exist on Mars today, the study said, "in underground habitats where volcanic heating melts ground ice, producing a warm, wet environment protected from harsh surface conditions."

Five approaches for meeting Bush's goals are laid out.

- Approach A would establish a human presence on the moon in 2001, permanently occupy it in 2002 and level off development of the outpost in 2012 in order to finance start of a Mars expedition, arriving in 2016.
- Approach B would delay some of the scientific activities on both the moon and Mars to advance the lunar arrival to 2011.
- Approaches C and D would alter the schedules somewhat, the latter delaying milestones by 2 to 3 years.
- Under approach E, activities on the moon would be cut back to only one mission a year. Humans would return to the moon, one flight a year beginning in 2004. Humans would return to the moon, one flight a year beginning in 2004, for tours of duty ranging from 30 days to six months. In this scenario, the first crew of four would arrive on Mars in 2016.

Any such large-scale endeavors, the report says, requires launch vehicles with much greater capacity to lift heavy payloads: "approximately 60 metric tons (132,000 pounds) for the lunar outpost."

\$500,000 incentive offered Write to save earth

NEW YORK, Nov 21. (AP) Broadcasting magnate Ted Turner established one of the world's richest literary prizes yesterday, a \$500,000 award for a novel set in the near future with a theme involving survival and prosperity of life on earth.

The winner of the Turner Tomorrow Award, to be given by Turner Broadcasting System Inc. and its subsidiary, Turner Publishing Inc. also will receive a hardcover publishing contract guaranteeing a minimum printing of 50,000 copies and a \$50,000 promotion campaign.

"The great minds of today need to focus on the problems of global significance of humanity to see new tomorrows," Turner said in a statement. "These awards are designed to encourage writing by authors throughout the world and in all languages that creates positive solutions to global problems," he said.

The award is higher than the \$463,000 awarded this year for the Nobel prize in literature. However, there are no plans to make it an annual award. The competition is open to anyone.

Four runners-up will receive \$50,000, a hardcover publication contract and an option for film production.

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Heavy battle erupts again

Blasts rock Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, Nov 21, (AP)—Heavy fighting erupted shortly before dawn today in a southern area of the Salvadoran capital that had not previously seen violence during the 11-day-old rebel offensive.

Heavy mortar blasts were heard around 4 am (1000 GMT) from the hills around the hotel of Organisation of American States (OAS) Secretary-General Jose Baena Soares, who is here on a peace mission.

Details of the fighting were not immediately available but heavy automatic weapons fire rang out across the wealthy Escalon district, which had not previously been the scene of fighting.

The blasts appeared to come from Merlot, a suburb where combat flared yesterday, or from the slopes of the San Salvador volcano that looms over the capital's northwestern sector.

Lights went out following the first explosions, indicating they may have been guerrilla bombings of power lines on the volcano's lower slopes.

Air force planes and helicopter gunships strafed rebel targets in nearby hills. Heavy fire continued for over an hour.

In an apparent sabotage attack, rebels appeared to have destroyed a nearby power plant, knocking out power in a large part of the capital.

Clashes between government troops and rebels — which have killed up to 1,300 combatants and uncounted civilians caught in the crossfire — had been confined to working class districts north and northeast of the city.

Government-controlled radio yesterday proclaimed victory over the rebels in the battle for the capital and urged residents to show their patriotism by taking to the streets and singing the national anthem.

Paul Iredale, a reporter for the Reuters news agency, was wounded in the lower back as fighting broke out for the first time in Escalon, on the north side.

Iredale was taken to the Hospital Rosales by other reporters, who said his wounds did not appear to be extremely serious. It was not clear if he was shot or hit by shrapnel.

He was conscious and able to walk, the reporters said.

Chris Norton, a reporter with the Christian Science Monitor, said: "He was walking down the street and said, 'I've been shot. Can you get me to the hospital?' His back was covered with blood."

Iredale, based in Mexico City, arrived in El Salvador on Nov 12.

Last week, a British journalist was shot and killed while covering the fighting.

Meanwhile, US embassy officials said there were also

reports of fighting in three other provinces of this Central American nation of nearly five million people.

The Salvadoran government showed no signs of backing down from its vow to clear the capital of guerrillas, rejecting truce talks with the rebels who have staged their biggest offensive of the 10-year-old civil war.

After a meeting yesterday with Baena Soares, Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Pacas Castro ruled out any ceasefire talks. "There is no negotiation or mediation," Pacas said.

Baena Soares, who arrived on Sunday, indicated that his mission was not yet over, saying he would remain in the capital for several more days.

The sound of mortar and machine-gun fire was still regularly heard on the outskirts of the capital, with the heaviest fighting yesterday appearing to be concentrated in the southwest near the National Police Academy.

There are no official estimates of civilian casualties but hospitals are overflowing with the injured from working-class districts and thousands of refugees are camped out under the open skies.

Before the new outbreak of heavy gunfire this morning, there were signs the capital was returning to a semblance of normalcy.

Traffic was back on the roads in the central market area and buses were travelling again to the suburbs.

Radio broadcasts urged residents of the capital to pour out to the streets and sing the national anthem at noon yesterday as a show of support for the government.

Congress has rejected attempts to restrict US military aid to war-torn El Salvador, heeding President George Bush's admonition not to further weaken the country's "freely, democratically elected government."

Amid bitter and at times personal debate, the House voted 215-194 yesterday on a procedural move that effectively kept the restrictions from being added to a \$14.6-billion foreign aid bill.

Seven protesters disrupted a Senate session on aid to El Salvador, others heckled President Bush during a speech in Chicago and at least 200 arrests took place from San Francisco to Seattle as activists marched in opposition to US policy on the Central American nation.

A team of distinguished American forensic scientists investigating the deaths of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador said their bodies showed no signs of torture or mutilation.



Running for cover

A Salvadoran soldier runs for cover during an exchange of gunfire with FMLN guerrillas for control of neighbourhood of Apopa city. (Reuters wirephoto)

Namibia assembly session begins

WINDHOEK, Nov 21, (AP)—Namibia's newly elected assembly met for the first time today to begin work on a constitution that will formalise the territory's independence after 74 years of South African rule.

The 72 members gathered at the Tintenpalast, seat of government since it was built by German colonial rulers in 1910, broke into applause when the dominant party proposed democratic principles as guidelines for government.

Theo-Ben Gurirab, the foreign affairs secretary for the South-West African People's Organisation, proposed that the constitution be the supreme law of the land; the government consist of an elected executive branch and an independent judicial branch; a declaration of fundamental rights, including freedom of movement, speech and a free press.

Although Gurirab's proposal was unanimously applauded, it could not be adopted because the assembly does not yet have rules of order. The body adjourned until Monday, when Gurirab's motion will be the first item after a committee has drawn up working rules.

Earlier, Hage Geingob, who headed Swapo's election campaign, was elected chairman of the assembly.

The Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, a multi-racial coalition that favours a capitalist economy, has 21 seats.

"Reconcile us, so that the decisions taken in this house will lay the groundwork for a sound and happy future," the Rev. Zephania Kamete, a delegate for the Swapo said in an opening prayer.

"I'm here with great humility and pride," Swapo president Sam Nujoma told the assembly. "Price, because an occasion like this only happens once in a lifetime. Humility, because I, Sam Nujoma, son of an ordinary citizen, have been honoured to be part of the struggle that brought us here and to lead us to nationhood."

The vice-president of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Mshakhe Mnyongo, pledged his organisation's support in drawing up the constitution.

The initial sessions are expected to focus on setting ground rules for writing the constitution. The parties have said they hope the document will be completed by early next year and independence from South Africa can be declared shortly thereafter.

ANC set for talks on SA

White businessmen involved

PARIS, Nov 21, (Reuters): The African National Congress (ANC) is sending a powerful team to Paris for talks which are shaping up as a substantive testing ground on how to negotiate the political future of South Africa.

South African sources said 25 top officials of the exiled ANC would join some of the biggest names in South African business at the talks in a highly-guarded chateau outside Paris.

Sources said the talks had the blessing of ANC leader Nelson Mandela, whose release from prison is a key condition set by the ANC for direct talks with the white authorities.

The talks will take place against the background of conciliatory gestures by South Africa's new President F.W. de Klerk, who has freed all other ANC political prisoners, softened the government's hardline stand on the legality of the guerrilla group and announced moves to repeal apartheid laws.

The human rights group France-Libertes, organiser of the forum, is keeping the list of 110 South African guests a close secret until the start of the Nov 27 to Dec 2 meeting.

South African sources said the ANC was sending its leading external spokesman Thabo Mbeki and Kadar Asmal, dean of law at Trinity College, Dublin, and a key member of the nationalist group's "constitutional team."

Other ANC leaders invited include Zola Skweyiya, who heads the legal department at the ANC's exile headquarters in Zambia, and Reg September, a member of the national

executive.

National executive member Steve Tshwete said in the Zambian capital yesterday that the ANC hoped to put its policies "to people who may not necessarily be in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa but are in a position to make a step in the right direction."

The sources said this referred to white business leaders, who control key sectors of the country's economy, hit by anti-apartheid trade sanctions.

One such delegate will be Nicholas Oppenheimer, heir-apparent to the Anglo American/De Beers gold and diamond dynasty.

Also expected are Johan Rupert, heir to the Rembrandt tobacco empire, now based in Switzerland, and Gavin Relly, chairman of Anglo American.

There was no indication that the South African government would be represented but analysts said the presence of ruling National Party officials could be ruled out.

Tshwete said the ANC did not want government figures to attend the talks in France.

Church leader Allan Boesak tops the list of prominent anti-apartheid campaigners arriving from South Africa.

South African police said they shot and wounded 15 striking black transport workers in Durban yesterday after a police officer was hit by gunfire.

Doctors at Prince Mshiyeni Hospital in the Indian Ocean port's black Umhlang township said they were treating a number of people for shotgun wounds, including serious head injuries.

More fatal than Aids

Hepatitis B riskier

WASHINGTON, Nov 21, (AP)—Hepatitis B, a blood-borne disease that can cause fatal liver cancer, is a much greater world-wide health threat than Aids, an infectious disease expert says.

There are 20 to 30 times more carriers of the hepatitis B virus than there are people infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, that causes Aids, Dr Sanford Kuvshinov, vice-chairman of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, said yesterday.

"Hepatitis B is the most important blood-borne disease in the world today, and that includes Aids," Kuvshinov said in an interview at the fourth national forum on Aids and hepatitis B. "There are almost 300 million carriers of the hepatitis B virus in the world today and there are about 10 to 15 million carriers of the HIV virus."

Among carriers of the hepatitis B virus, 25 per cent, or about 60 million, will die from primary liver cancer, he said. An additional 15 per cent, or about 45 million, will die of cirrhosis, another liver disease.

Hepatitis B is most common in Asia and Africa, and some countries there now require routine inoculations against the disease. The World Health Organisation has recommended the hepatitis B vaccine be part of routine childhood vaccination programmes.

Greece will have short-term govt

All parties agree to end crisis

ATHENS, Nov 21, (AP)—Political leaders reached agreement today for an all-party short-term government to end a stalemate that followed inconclusive Nov 5 elections.

"The three parties agreed to support a government whose life-term will last until mid-April," conservative leader Constantine Mitsotakis told a news conference.

The decision follows four rounds of talks between the conservative, socialist and communist leaders with President Christos Sartzetakis.

Mitsotakis said that the interim administration will be headed by respected former Bank of Greece Governor Xenophon Zolotas, who is not a Member of Parliament.

The government will include members of all parties and also non-political personalities, Mitsotakis added that the details of the cabinet's make-up still have to be decided.

He said that the administration will tackle pressing economic problems and negotiations with the United States on whether to renew an agreement for their bases in Greece.

"This is an issue ... that will be confronted by the government to be formed," he said.

The talks between the party leaders had been deadlocked until today over a demand by former Socialist premier Andreas Papandreu that the electoral system be changed before his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) supported any government.

The proposed change to simple proportional representation, would have made it even harder for any party to win a majority in the 300-member unicameral Parliament. With the present system, any one party receiving at least 47 per cent of the vote can govern alone.

Mitsotakis, whose New Democracy won 46 per cent of the vote and 148 seats in Parliament, had rejected the condition. He said that the party leaders had agreed that the April elections would be conducted with the existing electoral system.

Papandreu, explaining why he backed-down on the issue, said that "the deadlock which we faced ... would have led to immediate elections with the existing electoral system." He said that his Pask party would keep the issue alive and try to change the law after the April elections.

Papandreu said that the government will draw up a budget for 1990 and that agreement had been reached between the three parties on economic policy.

The veteran Socialist governed for eight years until the formation of a conservative-communist alliance in June after inconclusive elections.

His party won 128 seats in the November poll and the communist-led coalition of the Left and Progress won 21. Two seats went to independents and one to an environmentalist.

"We had the responsibility, as the land's political leadership, to come up either with a solution or a dead-end," Papandreu said of the compromise government.

Following the last elections each party leader failed to form a government that would have enjoyed a parliamentary majority.

Papandreu said that a request by the United States for the extradition of suspected Palestinian commando Mohammed Rashid would not be dealt with by the new government.

Rashid is accused of involvement in the inflight bombing of a Pan Am jetliner in 1982 in which one person died and 15 were injured.

The Greek Supreme Court has upheld a request for his extradition but the final decision will be taken by the justice minister. Rashid can be held pending extradition until September.

UN refugee chief named

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 21, (AP)—Former Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg was confirmed unanimously as the new High Commissioner for Refugees by the General Assembly.

The office of the High Commissioner for Refugees cares for more than 12 million refugees worldwide, including 5 million Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan, more than 1 million southern Africa, 1 million in the Horn of Africa and several thousand of Southeast Asia and Central America.



Jose Muguruza



Ignacio Eснаola

Gunmen kill Basque MP

Deputies boycott House

MADRID, Nov 21, (Reuters): Gunmen burst into a Madrid restaurant and shot dead a Basque separatist Member of Parliament and critically wounded another last night, police said.

Witnesses said two men, one of them hooded, forced their way into the restaurant shortly after 11 pm (2200 GMT) and fired at a table occupied by Ignacio Eснаola and Jose Muguruza.

The two men were newly-elected members for Herri Batasuna (HB), a radical Basque party widely seen as the political wing of the separatist group ETA.

Basque MPs taking seats in parliament for the first time boycotted its session today hours after the killing.

Both houses of Parliament condemned the assassination of Jon "Josu" Muguruza, 31, of the popular Union Party. He was pronounced dead on arrival last night at Gregorio Marañon hospital after being shot once in the head.

The second deputy, 41-year-old Inaki Eснаola, was in very serious condition after six hours of surgery, according to a hospital statement.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

The Popular Union issued a statement blaming the "Spanish state apparatus" and right-wing

terrorists. It called for a general strike tomorrow in the three provinces Basque region to protest the killings.

"It all happened so quickly there was no time to raise the alarm," said one woman seated at the same table in a restaurant adjoining the Alcala Hotel in central Madrid. Approaches to the hotel were sealed off by police immediately after the shooting.

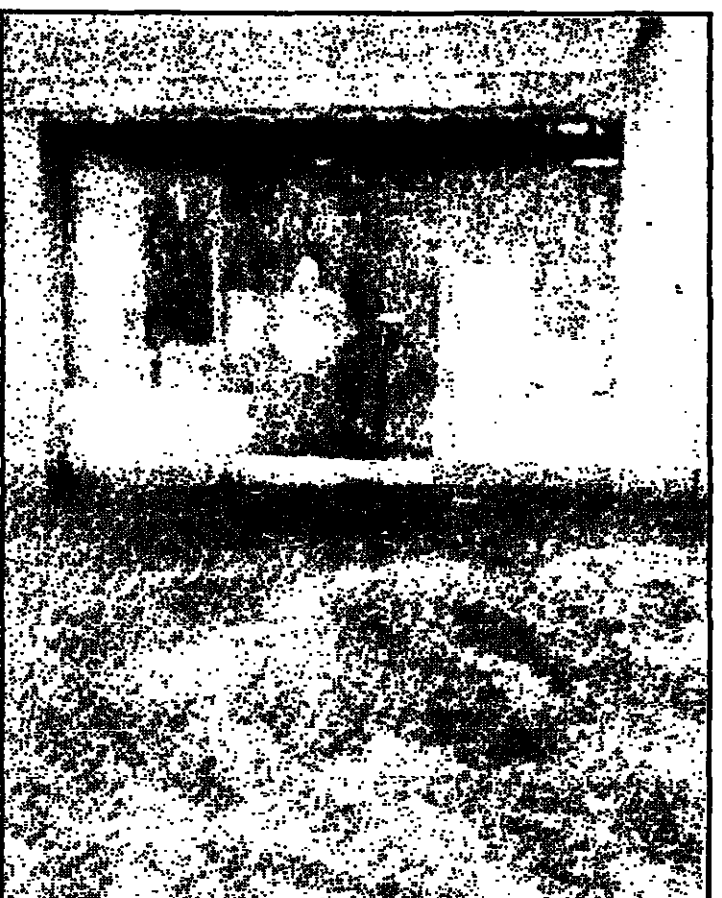
Two other Herri Batasuna deputies and three Senators were dining with Muguruza and Eснаola and a party of journalists.

The gunmen did not appear to be shooting at random and took careful aim at Eснаola and Muguruza, the woman said.

A policeman who was patrolling the neighbourhood in a car said he saw two men aged between 30 and 35 flee from the hotel after hearing three shots fired in rapid succession. One of the men was still clutching a pistol as he ran down a side street.

A spokeswoman for the ruling Socialist Party condemned the shooting as "a despicable act."

Muguruza, elected for the first time, fled from justice to France in 1981 but was handed over to the Spanish authorities in 1987. He was later acquitted of charges of collaborating with ETA. Eснаola had been elected to parliament for the third time.



Street turns into river

A Spaniard watches helplessly from the entrance of a bar as heavy rains turn streets of downtown Tarragona into true rivers. At least ten people have been killed and hundreds had to be evacuated from their homes last week, when rain-storms hit southern and eastern Spain. (Reuters wirephoto)

South African president orders 'detailed' inquiry on alleged death squads

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 21, (AP)—President F.W. de Klerk has requested a report from the law and order minister concerning allegations that police death squads assassinated numerous anti-apartheid activists, a government spokesman said today.

Three former policemen, including a captain, have said they participated in the killings on orders from their superiors. One of the men has been sentenced to death for a murder committed after he left the force and the other two men have reportedly fled South Africa.

De Klerk's spokesman, Casper Venter, said the

president requested last week that Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok provide a "detailed, in-depth" report on the allegations.

De Klerk has not commented publicly on the charges and Venter said no statement was expected until after the president reviewed Vlok's report.

Meanwhile, police have appointed the attorney general of the Orange Free State province and a police general to investigate the allegations. The investigators say they hope to complete their work by the end of the month.

However, several newspapers and opposition

political groups have called for the appointment of a judicial commission.

"The credibility of the police has simply collapsed," Business Day, the country's leading financial daily, said in an editorial.

"The general public reaction to the ... allegations has been that, given the secrecy in which the police operate and the accumulation of unsolved murder cases in which the victims have been opponents of the government, an assassination squad might well have existed," the editorial said.

Dozens of anti-apartheid activists have been

killed during the 1980s in cases that remain unsolved. Human rights groups have said for years that they believed the security forces were responsible, but that they had no proof.

Ex-policeman Butana Nofomela, on the night before he was scheduled to be executed last month, told authorities he was part of a police death squad.

Nofomela, who is black, has been granted a stay of execution while his allegations are investigated. He was sentenced for a killing that occurred after he left the force and which had no apparent political overtones.

هكذا من لاصل

INTERNATIONAL



IRA funeral steward jailed

Steward at an Irish Republican Army funeral where two British soldiers were dragged from their car, beaten, stripped and shot dead was jailed today for nine years for his part in the attack.

Defendant Terry Clarke for causing grievous bodily harm to one of the soldiers, the judge said he must bear responsibility for a ferocious attack on a British man.

Defendant Derek Woods and David Howes apparently strayed by mistake into the funeral in Belfast in March 1988. The pair were pulled from the ground, beaten and kicked before being driven away in a car and shot by masked gunmen on waste ground.

The film, taken from an army surveillance helicopter, showed the two men apparently fighting for their lives against a frenzied mob attack. (Reuters)

TV comes to the Commons

'Hide that bald spot'

LONDON, Nov 21, (AP) The House of Commons makes its television debut today, and its members have been getting tips on how to dress and speak and hide their bald spots.

"But they don't have to worry about viewers seeing them eat, yawn, or sprawl on the green leather-upholstered benches."

A parliamentary committee wrote a strict set of rules that limit what the cameras can show, in order to save the mother of parliaments from making an embarrassing spectacle of itself.

At least one member suggested that the restrictions will result in "animated postage stamps," and some journalists want coverage that reveals "warts and all."

There has been a flurry of publicity about the start of the new coverage, which will be on a trial basis until July when the 650 lawmakers can decide whether to make it permanent. Members after hearing debated 318-264 in June to allow rapid access to the cameras on a trial basis.

It was still unclear whether Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, among those who oppose the idea, says she fears for the "good reputation" of the gas as a debating Commons.

Members do have reason to be nervous about camera-shy. Orators frequently but was last night to shout over a barnyardish audience like din of boos and wisecracks after acquiescing while the speaker howls for a moment of order.

Amid the debate, though, had been the most agree on one point: when speaker Bernard Weatherill appears on the nation's television screens today in his black gown, silk stockings and horsehair wig, it will herald a change that will transform the character of the House of Commons.

The first live pictures on the ceremonial state opening of Parliament will show Weatherill beginning the day's business. For the first time, viewers will see opposition leader Neil Kinnock assessing Weatherill's speech, and Thatcher responding.

Eight remote-control cameras have been installed in the ornate

chamber, and the air-conditioning has been improved to cope with the heat from the Chinese lantern-shaped television lights.

The parties have held training sessions to advise their members how to dress and speak on television. MPs have scrutinised their own performances on closed-circuit TV.

In a special concession, Thatcher has been allowed to practise privately in the House of Commons, using notes printed in large type so she doesn't have to appear on the air in glasses.

The front benches have been given advice about where to lean and where to put their feet, to avoid "clumsy" or "awkward" movements.

Clare Short of the opposition Labour Party. Because of the configuration of seats, the cameras will look down on those in the front rows, with an eye-level vantage point on the others.

Britain's four national channels and the Sky Satellite Network will be able to broadcast as many hours as they wish, live or recorded. Sky Television said yesterday it would, on an experimental basis, carry complete proceedings.

The televising of lawmakers at work is nothing new. Cameras have been permitted in the US House of Representatives since 1979 and in the US Senate since 1986.

The House of Lords, Britain's unelected upper chamber, has been televised since 1985. Indeed, even before the Commons cameras switch on, television viewers will have seen Queen Elizabeth II giving her regular annual address to the Lords.

A parliamentary committee has drawn up rules, based on those used in Canada's House of Commons, to deter members from flaunting buttons or attention-getting garb.

Under the code, cameras will be allowed to show only the head and shoulders of the member who has the floor. On an "occasion of grave disorder," the cameras must ignore ruckus-makers and focus on the speaker.

Three honoured Chefs of century

PARIS, Nov 21, (AP) Superstar French chefs Paul Bocuse and Joel Robuchon, and the Swiss Fredy Girardet have been named "Chefs of the Century" by the Gault-Millau Guidebook.

The honour also was a return to grace for Bocuse because the guide gave him back his fourth toque or chef's hat. The toque is Gault-Millau's symbol for excellence and Bocuse was demoted to three toques by last year's Guide.

According to the Guidebook's president and editor, Christian Millau, Bocuse's problem last year was turning out the same basic menu for years, while others had new ideas.

Known as the "Emperor of Cuisine," Bocuse also was criticised for travelling around the world rather than tending to his stock pots at his restaurant near Lyon.

Bocuse accused Millau of always bringing his dog to the restaurant and not asking for the bill. The spat simmered down as Millau and Bocuse killed and made up.

"I was very happy to be named a chef of the century, and we've settled our differences," said Bocuse. "But the century isn't over yet," he added. "I think there's room for more of us up there."

He said he was flattered to be in the company of two legendary chefs who were posthumously named "chefs of the century": Auguste Escoffier and Fernand Point. "Escoffier was the master of us all," said Bocuse. "And point was the first chef-owner, who ran his own show. Before that chefs were hidden away, as restaurants were owned by maître d's or entrepreneurs."

At last 1,200 French chefs and 15,000 guests packed an exhibition hall last week at the futuristic La Défense area west of Paris for the Gault-Millau awards followed by a tasting of regional food and wines.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Americans do believe in God: Ninety-four per cent of the American people do believe in God while only 90 per cent of them pray every day, according to a survey out yesterday.

The Gallup organisation poll also found that more than 75 per cent of the people say their religious involvement has been a positive experience.

Over the past decade, a consistent one-third of US people report they have had a life-changing religious experience, a finding the authors call "one of the most significant survey results ever uncovered." (Kuna)

Project still on track: One of the most expensive scientific projects in history, the so-called superconducting super collider, is going forward as planned despite a "conceptual flaw," a federal official told members of the US Congress yesterday.

The super collider, expected to cost \$5.9 billion, would be the world's most powerful particle accelerator — a 53-mile underground oval where atomic particles would be accelerated and then hurled at each other by superconducting magnets. (AP)

US youths tuned off to politics: Young Americans have only a vague idea of citizenship and view freedom as a vehicle for financial success, in stark contrast to those fighting for democracy in Eastern Europe and China, a study said yesterday.

People for the American way said a study of youth values found "America's youth are alarmingly ill-prepared to keep democracy alive in the 1990s and beyond."

Officials called on parents, politicians, schools and youth themselves to step up efforts to invigorate civic involvement. (AP)

Journalist blows apartment, self up: A journalist today blew up his apartment in a six-storey building in the capital's centre when a court official tried to enter the apartment to seize the personal belongings of the journalist.

The journalist, 44, who was not identified, was killed in the blast.

Four security men as well as the court representative and three workers were wounded in the explosion which fully destroyed the apartment. (Kuna)

3 killed while pasting posters: Three men pasting up posters of an ousted president were clubbed and shot to death by seven gunmen, the independent station radio Metropole reported yesterday.

In a separate case of political violence, three political leaders jailed and beaten on Nov 1 after being accused of plotting the assassination of Haitian leader Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril were transferred on Sunday to the military hospital.

Radio Metropole said the latest incident of political violence occurred Friday night in the town of Drouillard on the outskirts of the capital of Port-au-Prince.

US military exercise protested: US troops ringed an American military hospital with armoured carriers yesterday in a military exercise. Panamanian officials called a violation of the Panama Canal treaties.

More than 300 Panamanians shouted anti-American slogans outside Gorgas Hospital while Panamanian military officials argued with US officials over the manoeuvre, which herbed-wire was also erected. (AP)

Aids inmate ordered out: A federal prison inmate suffering from Aids was on his way to a private hospital yesterday after a judge told the US Bureau of Prisons to provide adequate facilities to treat him.

Lawyers in the case of Leonardo Boteo Gomez, 43, said yesterday they are preparing a class-action lawsuit on behalf of all federal prisoners with Aids.

"This is a precedent-setting case putting the bureau of prisons on trial for their callous disregard of prisoners' serious health care needs," said attorney David Tucker, who represented Gomez.

Woman wins damages: An Australian woman who was awarded \$35,000 (\$26,000 US) in damages after being struck in the back during a frozen tuna-throwing contest said today she still eats the fish.

Sharon Szabo, 42, was hit by an eight-kg (17-pound) tuna in January 1986 when a competitor lost his grip on his fish during the world tuna-tossing championships in the south Australian town of Port Lincoln. (Reuters)



4-hour-long smacker

Liao Tzung-wu (right) and Tsai Han-Huei on Nov 18 make Taiwan's longest kiss — a four-hour smacker in the island's first ever kissing contest.

Secretariat for toxic waste set up

GENEVA, Nov 21, (Reuters) The United Nations announced today it was creating an interim secretariat to handle an agreement on hazardous waste signed by 38 states in March.

The accord, concluded in the Swiss city of Basel, is designed to ban toxic waste shipments to countries ill-equipped to handle them.

Swiss biologist Pierre Portas began last week as the co-ordinator of the Geneva-based secretariat under the auspices of the UN Environment Programme.

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TOYOTA

INTERNATIONAL

Yasu in fight for political survival

NAKANJO, Japan, Nov 21, (AP): Former prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone looks more like a rookie politician these days than a celebrated statesman, as he stumps through his constituency in the fight for his political life.

Only two years ago he was completing five years in the highest office of the world's second economic superpower. He and former US president Ronald Reagan were calling each other "Ron" and "Yasu" as they forged close personal and national ties.

Now scandal has forced Nakasone to resign from his party and fall back on his own resources in an attempt at a political comeback.

"Please give me another chance to make my way back to the centre of politics," said Nakasone, 71, bowing deeply to a crowd of about a thousand at a municipal auditorium in farming country in Gunma prefecture, 160 kilometres (100 miles) north of Tokyo.

"Japan still needs my experience and my world-wide network."

Former Japanese prime ministers usually become elders of the long-governing Liberal Democratic Party, overseeing their successors and wielding great influence through the loyalty of legislators they support with fund-raising.

Now all of that is under question in Japan, and Nakasone personally was hurt by his link to a bribery affair known as the Recruit scandal. After dominating Tokyo's decision-making from 1982 to 1987, Nakasone now faces the most serious crisis in his 43 years in politics.

Crucial

Analysts and his aides say the election for parliament's lower house, expected early next year, is crucial for Nakasone.

"He faces an uphill battle because he needs not only to be re-elected... but must win overwhelmingly, if he is ever to come back into the political limelight," said Toshio Yamaguchi, a Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament and Nakasone's close aide.

Under Japan's multiple-seat constituency system, Nakasone is not only running against opposition candidates but also against prominent people in his own former party. His constituency has four seats, but each voter chooses only one candidate. When the votes are counted, the top four candidates in the district are elected.

The four seats now are held by Nakasone; former prime minister Takeo Fukuda; Keizo Obuchi, former chief cabinet secretary; and Tsuru Yamaguchi, secretary general of the opposition Socialists. Fukuda is retiring at 84, and plans to hand his mandate to his son Yasuo.

All are powerful vote-getters in the constituency, and the Socialists are breaking with past practice and plan to run a second candidate.

The Socialists aim to "force Nakasone out of parliament and they are working to take a bite out of Nakasone's votes little by little," said a Socialist official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Thus, Nakasone faces an uphill battle, and he admits that he isn't especially good at campaigning.

If he doesn't score near the top of the final four, he could become a political non-entity.

Analysts say it is unlikely that Nakasone will regain the influence he once had because his power base within the party, which he reportedly hopes to return to, is crumbling. It is considered only a matter of time until Michio Watanabe, one of Nakasone's ambitious disciples, takes over his faction.

Nor will he regain international prominence, as the scar of scandal will follow him everywhere, they say.

Nakasone had hoped to hold influence in foreign affairs through a government-backed think-tank that he established after he left the premiership. But his plan stalled for lack of money as the Recruit scandal apparently scared corporate contributors away from his World Peace Research Institute.

It was reported that some of his aides suggested that Nakasone retire before suffering further embarrassment such as being summoned to parliament again or losing an election.

But Nakasone, encouraged by some loyal supporters, insisted that he still had a chance to start afresh. He also has a record of making political comebacks. After he was summoned to testify to parliament in 1976 in the Lockheed scandal some thought he was finished, but six years later he became prime minister.



Excited over exchange

An old man in traditional satin suit and straw hat embraces a friend in a Seoul park on hearing S. Korea has agreed with the communist North to allow exchange visits next month by hundreds of

Koreans separated from their families since the 1950-53 war. But talks on allowing visits later bogged down. (Reuters wirephoto)

Beijing rebellion taught restraint

East bloc learnt lesson

LAS VEGAS, Nov 21, (AP): The dramatic events unfolding in Eastern Europe are a sign that communist leaders there have drawn the right lessons from the bloody student rebellion in Beijing, the former US ambassador to China said yesterday.

"The scene is still unfolding in Eastern Europe," Winston Lord said of sweeping democratic changes in communist bloc countries. "Let's hold our breath there won't be a response like you had in Tiananmen Square."

Lord served as ambassador to China from 1985 until April. He was speaking in Las Vegas to US industrialists.

Before the lunch, Lord told a news conference that communist leaders in Eastern Europe are acting with restraint as their people push for democratic reforms because they want to avoid a repeat of the bloody Chinese uprising.

"They have drawn the right lessons from Tiananmen Square," Lord said of Europe's communist leaders.

He said they were "reacting with restraint" and credited Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev with encouraging that control.

Changes in Eastern Europe will not cause a rift between China and the Soviet Union "but it will cause wariness," Lord predicted.

He suggested Chinese authorities will continue to see the Soviet Union as "their main threat" because of differences that range from racial to territorial.

Lord said there is little hope the events in Europe could create a similar impact in China.

"The Chinese people are very intimidated right now," he said. "You pay a big price these days if you undertake demonstrations."



Deng: glorification

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan may offer aid: Japan would offer an emergency assistance of \$200 million to Poland and Hungary within the framework of co-ordination with other Western countries in view of recent political reforms in the East European Communist states, Japanese sources said here yesterday.

The sources noted that the Japanese aid is equal to grants that would be offered by the United States and West Germany following speedy democratic changes in East Europe.

New Zealand nuclear device on its Mururoa test site in the South Pacific yesterday, scientists said. New Zealand Disarmament Minister Frank Wilde said the test was "deeply saddened" by the test, the seventh this year and the 110th since 1975.

She said France knew South Pacific forum countries opposed the tests but chose to ignore strongly held regional opinion.

"New Zealand rejects nuclear testing wherever it occurs and will persevere in its bilateral, regional and multilateral efforts for as long as it takes to achieve a universal test ban," she said.

The underground blast, equivalent to 30,000 tons of TNT, was detected at 6:30 am (1530 GMT Monday) at New Zealand's seismological station at Rarotonga, Cook Islands, according to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Mururoa is southwest of Tahiti or roughly midway between Australia and Chile. There was no immediate comment from France of the report. (AP)

Protests over newspaper ban: A group of US journalists has written Prime Minister Chaitchal

Choonhavan expressing concern over the ban by Thai police on local distribution of the Asian Wall Street Journal.

In a letter to the premier, the committee to protect journalists noted the ban as well as the threatened action against the Far Eastern Economic Review magazine.

"We view the ban and the threatened action against the Review as contrary to internationally recognised standards of press freedom," the text said. "Such actions are particularly dismaying in view of your country's reputation as being one of the freest for the foreign press in Asia."

The private, New York-based committee urged that authorities decide favourably on the newspaper's appeal of the ban. A copy of the letter sent last Friday was seen here yesterday. (AP)

Waste dumped in Antarctic: Some research stations on the Antarctic peninsula are polluting the pristine environment by failing to adequately dispose of their wastes, Greenpeace charged Monday.

"Since our last trip to the peninsula in 1988, many stations have taken some steps in a positive direction," said Maj De Poorter, who organised an independent inspection of the area by the international environmental group.

But at Argentina's Maramba station, "the entire island is now serving as one huge dump site for the 20 years of accumulated items being brought in but never removed," De Poorter said in a statement issued in Buenos Aires. (AP)

Vietnamese vote in elections: Almost 34 million people — more than half of Vietnam's population — voted in nation-wide elections for local government representatives, the official Vietnam news agency reported.

advised by US intelligence officials, was risking its Western aid lifeline by taking part in simultaneous attacks with the Khmer Rouge.

There was no independent estimate of casualties, but a KPRLF official said 35 government soldiers and six KPRLF fighters had been killed in the offensive, which began before dawn on Monday.

Cambodian smugglers told reporters at the border that tens of thousands of civilians had been displaced by the fighting, which guerrilla sources in this eastern Thai border town said would continue

Peace prize for Unicef

NEW DELHI, Nov 21, (AP): The Indira Gandhi prize for peace, disarmament and development has been awarded to Unicef for its effort in safeguarding the health of the world's children, it was announced today.

The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1.5 million (\$937,500) and a citation that praised the United Nations International Children's

Emergency Fund for its "outstanding contribution in safeguarding and development of the health of the world's children."

The announcement was made by Indian Vice-President S.D. Sharma, who is the chairman of the international jury for the prize.

Previous recipients of the prize established in 1986 include Soviet President Mikhail Gor-

bachev in 1987 and former Prime Minister of Norway Gro Harlem Brundtland in 1988.

The prize was given in the memory of former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1984 by two Sikh bodyguards.

The award will be presented later, the jury said.

TNA accused of massacre

Tamil militia used poisoned knives

COLOMBO, Nov 21, (AP): A Muslim lawmaker today accused an outlawed Tamil militia of committing "an act of genocide" against Muslims in the eastern Ampara district.

Mohammed Ashraf, leader of the opposition Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, told Parliament the so-called Tamil National Army had used poisoned knives, acid and machine guns to "massacre a large number of innocent young Muslims."

The government, whose predominantly Sinhalese troops have been battling the Tamil militia since the weekend, said earlier that rebels disarmed and killed 41 Muslim policemen in the Ampara village of Karativu last Friday.

The new eruption of violence follows the withdrawal of Indian Peacekeeping troops from the Ampara district.

As Sri Lankan soldiers tried to take up patrol duties, they found the newly created Tamil National Army already was moving into the vacuum left by the Indians. The Indians have announced plans to withdraw from Sri Lanka in stages, with the final pullout to be completed by the end of 1989.

Sri Lanka's ethnic wars are rooted in conflicts between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority, which has been fighting since 1983 for a separate homeland in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. But in the past two years the tiny Muslim minority has also been targeted by Tamil rebels, prompting fears that Tamil extremists are trying to purge the east of everyone but Tamils.

Referring to the attack on the Karativu police station, Ashraf charged: "The illegal Tamil army segregated the Muslim policemen from the Tamils to kill them in cold blood. They used poisoned knives and acid to finish off those who were fighting for their lives after being shot."

His remarks on the floor of Parliament prompted a rare interruption from Parliament Speaker Mahammed Haniffa-Mohammed, a fellow Muslim.

Mohammed, a member of President Ranasinghe Premadasa's United National Party, said he wanted to voice "my personal concern about the situation of Muslims in the East."

Another ruling party Muslim, Trade and Shipping Minister Abdul Munsoor, attempted to lead a parliamentary fact-finding team to Ampara yesterday. But Ashraf, one of six legislators accompanying Munsoor, said the Tamil National Army fired on the group's two unarmed air force helicopters and they were forced to turn back to Colombo. Ampara residents, contacted by telephone, said the Tamil National Army fired heavy machine guns at the two helicopters when they tried to land at Kalmunai, east of Colombo.

Premadasa said a commander of Indian forces in Sri Lanka had admitted his troops were training an illegal army on the island.

Premadasa told a meeting of the ruling United National Party yesterday the admission was made when he questioned the commander, a statement from the presidential office said today.

"The President said that he told the commander that it was wrong for the IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force) to train an illegal army," the statement said.

Premadasa told the party meeting that attacks on Sri Lankan security forces by an illegal Tamil militia in the East last weekend were an attempt by the group to prolong the stay of Indian troops on the island.

The President noted that an agreement with India on the withdrawal of its troops from the island by the end of the year had been reached only after tough negotiations.

Military sources said the TNA was raised by the northeast council Chief Minister, Vartharaja Perumal, with the assistance of Indian forces.

Shunned by relatives, abandoned by her husband's political allies, the wife of Sri Lanka's slain rebel leader Rohana Wijeweera had only one way to — turn to the army.

Election will be won or lost in Hindi belt

6,000 candidates vying

(Continued from Page 1)

stint against his opponent, Raj Mohan Gandhi, the grandson of Mohandas K. Gandhi, the Mahatma and no relation to the prime minister.

But elsewhere the Congress Party's glitzy, media-oriented campaign has attracted only small, unenthusiastic crowds. Opposition leaders — especially Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the man expected to become prime minister if the opposition wins — are being eagerly received.

A loss by Rajiv would break his family's hold on power that began with his grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, and passed to his mother, Indira Gandhi. It also could trigger a revolt against Rajiv and splinter the party that has governed India for all but 29 months since independence from Britain in 1947.

Nearly 500 million people are eligible to vote in the election, spread over three days because of the country's ethnic and linguistic diversity. With a literacy rate of only 36 per cent in a nation of 880 million people, voters will mark the ballot by stamping the symbols of each candidate.

At least 3.7 million government officials will supervise balloting at 600,000 polling centres during the three-day election.

The election will be won or lost in the Hindi-speaking heartland of northern India — the so-called Hindi belt — stretching from Rajasthan in the west across Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to Bihar in the east. Together, they control almost half of the parliamentary seats at stake in the election.

Most Indians see the election as a referendum on Rajiv's record since he picked up the mantle following his mother's assassination by two Sikh

bodyguards on Oct 31, 1984.

Less than two months later, the Congress Party swept an unprecedented 415 seats in Parliament, a victory that transcended religious and caste boundaries and gave Congress a mandate to change tradition-bound India and attack ancient problems of poverty and illiteracy.

"The Congress candidates are thieves," said Ram Kumar, 79-year-old bricklayer in the central town of Agra. "But I'll vote for them anyway because I'm afraid the opposition will be even more corrupt."

Although Rajiv liberalised the economy and opened the door to foreign investment, he failed to loosen India's notoriously inefficient bureaucracy and to clean up politics.

Nothing has given the opposition ammunition to fire at the corruption target than a \$1.4-billion deal with the Swedish arms manufacturer AB Bofors. Opposition politicians and several Indian newspapers have alleged Bofors paid as much as \$50 million in kickbacks to obtain the contract to supply 400 artillery guns to the Indian Army.

Rajiv has denied any wrongdoing and there has been no concrete evidence linking the prime minister or his family to the scandal. Congress officials retaliated, accusing opposition leaders of corruption, nepotism and murder.

While many Indians seem unconcerned about high-level government corruption, Bofors has become the rallying cry against the corruption that plagues daily life in a country where a bribe is needed to get a phone, a job or even to school. India's stock markets are in a state of anxiety over the elections.



Solidarity

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, addressing a global Labour Congress, has called on Eastern Europe and Latin America to work together in improving their debt-ridden economies.

"Our collaboration can be successful in seeking to alleviate our common burdens," Walesa said in an address Monday to the 220 Congress of the World Confederation of Labour.

Walesa, who arrived from visiting the United States, received cheers and several standing ovations from the 400 delegates, who had gathered from 92 countries, primarily in the Third World.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez told the conference that the changes in Eastern Europe concern Third World leaders. Picture shows Walesa posing with a young Polish immigrant living in Venezuela with the parents after his arrival at Caracas Maiquetia International Airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pravda praise for Pope

MOSCOW, Nov 21, (Reuters): A leading Soviet daily published a long article praising Pope John Paul II today, another sign of improving relations between the Kremlin and the Vatican ahead of next week's visit to Rome by President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, published by the Central Committee of the Komsomol Communist Youth League, spoke of the Pope's "remarkable personality" and the emphasis which it said he put on peace and on human values.

It praised moves by both the Vatican and the Soviet state — exemplified by Gorbachev's meeting with the Pope set for Dec 1 — to drop their decades-old antagonism and to move towards dialogue.

"What is about this spiritual pastor of 850 million of the world's Catholics that allows him to attract people? Not just his service to God but also his remarkable personality," Komsomolskaya Pravda said.

IMF rep to stay

DHAKA, Nov 21, (Reuters): Bangladesh has extended the visa of the resident representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to paper over a row with the Washington-based financial agency, officials said today.

They said the government scrapped its earlier stand that Philippe Beaupre must leave Bangladesh because he was critical of Dhaka's fiscal policy.

Beaupre had been told that his visa would be extended when it expired by the end of November, one official said.

"Well, the battle has ended," he said but gave no other details.

Beaupre, a French citizen who took up his post in Dhaka a year ago, declined comment.

Bangladesh asked for his replacement when the IMF requested a year's extension of his visa. All of his predecessors had served for two years.

An official said Beaupre was critical of Bangladesh's fiscal policy and argued that the country's currency was overvalued.



Body removed

British servicemen remove the body of one of the seven soldiers killed near Platres, in central Cyprus. The accident occurred when their truck left the road killing seven and injuring 15. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cambodian rebels fail to capture main targets as offensive appears to have stalled

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand, Nov 21, (Reuters): An offensive by US-backed guerrillas and the Khmer Rouge in northwestern Cambodia appeared to have stalled today under withering rocket fire. Thai and Cambodian sources said.

They said the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPRLF) and the radical Khmer Rouge had failed to capture two of their main targets, Svay Chek and Nimti, although they overran several defence outposts and villages around them.

Diplomats said the weaker KPRLF, which is

advised by US intelligence officials, was risking its Western aid lifeline by taking part in simultaneous attacks with the Khmer Rouge.

There was no independent estimate of casualties, but a KPRLF official said 35 government soldiers and six KPRLF fighters had been killed in the offensive, which began before dawn on Monday.

Cambodian smugglers told reporters at the border that tens of thousands of civilians had been displaced by the fighting, which guerrilla sources in this eastern Thai border town said would continue

until all targets were seized.

Thai military sources said many KPRLF fighters were being treated in field hospitals in areas occupied since Vietnam withdrew its forces from Cambodia in September.

"The most feared government weapons is the Stalin Organ," the KPRLF official said, referring to the Soviet-supplied multiple rocket launcher used to devastating effect by the communist government forces. The weapon looks like the pipes of a church organ.

The official confirmed that the KPRLF and Khmer Rouge simultaneously attacked government positions along Route 5.

In Aranyaprathet, the rumble and crash of rockets and shells could be heard throughout the day from the flat ricefields and scrubland east of the frontier.

KPRLF sources said thousands of guerrillas were thrown into a general assault to try to break out of a strip about 160 km (100 miles) long parallel to the Thai border, where the rebels have their main bases.

INTERNATIONAL

Cheney plans cuts in defence

WASHINGTON, Nov 21, (AP): Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, spurred by reforms in Eastern Europe and fiscal pressures at home, on Monday analysed "worst-case scenario" budget cuts that could include a \$20-billion slash in projected spending for the 1991 fiscal year, sources said.

Cheney, in more than four hours of conferences with the Pentagon's civilian leadership, the chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Colin Powell, also reviewed the military's suggestions for dealing with his suggestions to cut spending by \$180 billion in 1992-94, other sources said.

The long-range cutbacks are thought to be the most painful considered by Pentagon leaders since the end of the Vietnam war. They envision possibly closing as many as 15 air force bases, cutting back five air force fighter wings, stretching out the purchase of the B-2 Stealth bomber, mothballing the Navy's four battle ships and at least two carriers, and eliminating up to four army divisions, said one Pentagon official who spoke privately.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said Cheney had not made any decisions about the reported suggestions.

"This is a worst-case scenario," Williams said, adding that the secretary wants the services to conduct the "budget exercise" to be ready to respond, given the changes occurring under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and the budget pressures of the nation's deficit.

"In a dynamic era, you have to have a dynamic process and plan accordingly," Williams said.

"There is real pain when you cut the defence budget," he said. "The question is, how much pain can you take and still ensure the nation's security?"

Over the weekend, Congress approved a \$286-billion defence budget for the 1990 fiscal year that began Oct 1.

Another senior Pentagon official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said Cheney is negotiating with budget director Richard Darman on plans for a possible 4.5 per cent spending cut for the 1991 fiscal year, or about \$20 billion in cuts from the projected \$317 billion — a revised figure settled on earlier this year that takes inflation into account.

The Pentagon expects to have its 1991 spending projections submitted to the Office of Management and Budget by Dec 8, the official said.

Cheney ordered the armed services to look at coming up with the \$180 billion in spending cuts, but didn't direct how the cuts should be made.

A study soon to be published says the United States could slash defence spending by nearly 50 per cent in the next 10 years without undermining global commitments or its posture in arms control talks with Moscow.

The study will be published next month by the Brookings Institution, an influential private think tank.

Its author is Harvard University lecturer William Kaufmann, who has been a consultant to six secretaries of defence, from 1961 to 1980.

Kaufmann said in an interview late on Monday his plan would cut defence spending from about \$305 billion in the fiscal year that began Oct 1 to about \$160 billion in 1999, saving about \$500 billion in 10 years.

Hungarian minister quits

BUDAPEST, Nov 21, (AP): Laszlo Marothy, minister of water management and environmental protection, resigned today over a controversial water barrage system, the state MTI news agency reported.

Marothy, whose resignation was accepted by Parliament, supported the completion of the hydropower station at Nagymaros on the Danube River, described by independent environmentalists as a very costly and ecologically dangerous project.

Milosevic elected president of Serbia, in secret ballot

BELGRADE, Nov 21, (Reuters): Populist politician Slobodan Milosevic has been elected president of Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic, in last week's poll, the first held there by secret ballot, Tanjug news agency said.

All four candidates running for the office were communists, prompting Serbian intellectuals to urge the election be boycotted.

Tanjung reported that Milosevic won 80 per cent of the total vote in Serbia and its two constituent provinces, Kosovo and

Prague leadership bows to dissidents

Czechs stage another day of protest

PRAGUE, Nov 21, (Reuters): More than 100,000 protesters took to the streets of Prague today demanding the resignation of hardline leader Milos Jakes, witnesses said.

The crowd jammed into the central Wenceslas Square only hours after Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec, in a sharp about-turn, was quoted as telling a group of dissidents that non-communists could join the government.

He also said the authorities would talk to the Charter 77 human rights movement.

One of the participants at Adamec's meeting, journalist Michael

Horacek, quoted the prime minister as saying there would be no more police action similar to last Friday's, when a demonstration by 50,000 people was violently suppressed by the security forces.

He also announced an official inquiry into the police action, in which at least 38 people were injured.

"He said there would be no massacre, no martial law," Horacek, who took part in the meeting as a mediator, told Reuters.

Despite Adamec's reassurances, some students gathering in Wenceslas Square said the switchboard at their faculty had received calls

warning them that the security forces has orders to shoot at demonstrators.

As the pace of events picked up dramatically, the country's Roman Catholic primate, Archbishop Frantisek Tomasek, added his voice to the growing chorus demanding change.

New protests were also staged in the provinces, official Czechoslovak radio said today.

It said 3,000 young people massed in the country's second city, Bratislava. The participants marched in procession to Hviezdoslav Square and later dispersed peacefully.

The radio said students went on strike at Bratislava University but the campus was calm.

CTK news agency said universities also stopped classes at Kosice, Banska Bystrica and Zvolen.

The meeting with Adamec involved representatives of students and performing artists who began a strike at the weekend, and one outright dissident, Jan Ruml.

They also included leading actor Jiri Bartoska, film student Martin Mejstrik, who is leading the students' strike, and Milan Hruska, a miner.

Most were members of a newly-founded reform group called Civil Forum, which tabled a list of demands including the resignation of the party leadership, a dialogue with the government and an inquiry into Friday's police violence.

Earlier today the forum had nominated a five-member delegation, including the country's leading dissident, playwright Vasek Havel, to seek talks with Adamec, widely considered to be open to reform ideas.

Havel accompanied the delegation to the government headquarters but was not allowed into the talks with the premier, participants reported.

Horacek quoted Adamec as saying he supported a dialogue with all social groups including Charter 77.

He also promised the delegation changes in the Communist Party's leading role, saying the government should be reshuffled to include non-communists and representatives of youth groups.

In an official statement released later the government said Adamec had assured the delegates it was preparing a programme of social restructuring, or restructuring.

The State Department yesterday cancelled a visit by a high-level official from Czechoslovakia and condemned police use of force against peaceful demonstrators in Prague.

"We're disappointed," Richard Schifter, head of the department's human rights office, told Ambassador Miroslav Housbecky, who was handed a 600-word statement of sharp US disapproval.

Britain protested to Czechoslovakia at the violence used against demonstrators in Prague and the reported police beatings of two British journalists.

Also absent were all Nato countries except Turkey, in a break with past practice when Western ambassadors would attend the opening day of the congress.

A US statement expressed the "depths of US concern over the human rights situation, for which the Romanian Communist Party is responsible," and other embassies also said they stayed away to protest rights contraventions.

Romania has been targeted internationally for its tight restrictions on citizens, including obliging them to report contacts with foreigners and severe curtailment of the right to assembly.

Consistently poor food and energy supplies are the other major domestic problem, with Romania exporting most of what it produces in past years to rid itself of a multibillion-dollar foreign debt.

Milosevic led a drive to reduce Kosovo's autonomy in favour of Serbia, leading to strikes, sit-ins and rebellion by the Albanians, who outnumber other nationalities eight-to-one there.

In the election, Milosevic ran against three of his close associates who share most of his political and economic views. The secret ballot for the electorate of seven million was the first in Serbia since communists came to power 44 years ago.

But in predominantly ethnic Albanian Kosovo, where at least 28 people died in Albanian riots this year, Milosevic got only 25.22 per cent of the votes, Tanjug said.

Reports from Kosovo said that many Albanians had written the name of jailed ethnic Albanian leader Adem Vllasi on their ballot slips. Vllasi is on trial facing a possible death penalty on charges of counter-revolution.

One of the participants at Adamec's meeting, journalist Michael



About 100,000 people demonstrated in Prague on Nov 20. (Reuters wirephoto)



Demonstrators carry a Czech flag through the streets. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bush eager to meet Gorby

Summit will be 'historic'

PROVIDENCE, R.I., Nov 21, (Reuters): US President George Bush has played down expectations for next week's Malta summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, but as the meeting approaches, Bush is becoming increasingly excited about it.

"This is going to be an historic meeting," an exuberant Bush told an audience here last night as he stumped for Republican candidates in next year's elections.

Declaring that the potential for peace and reduced tension between East and West has "never been better," Bush said he hoped to find ways in which Washington and Moscow could co-operate and get a better understanding of Gorbachev's problems.

"I do feel ... that we have a chance now, in the next couple of years, to really enhance the peace," he said.

When Bush announced the summit, he billed it as an informal, unstructured prelude to a full-blown superpower summit in the United States in the spring or early summer of 1990.

Since then, the democratic reform movement in Eastern Europe has spread from Poland and Hungary to East Germany, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia, the Berlin Wall has crumbled, and the Soviet empire appears to be breaking up.

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One of the participants at Adamec's meeting, journalist Michael

Mladenov denies army helped

VIENNA, Nov 21, (Reuters): Bulgaria's new reformist leader Petar Mladenov yesterday denied reports that the army or Moscow helped him oust his hardline predecessor Todor Zhivkov.

Zhivkov's sudden fall on Nov 10 and Mladenov's subsequent meeting with leading generals generated reports that he had used the army. Other rumours in Sofia alleged he had used Soviet support to stage palace coup.

"There was no special trip to Moscow, nor has there been any special meeting with the minister of defence, nor was any sort of army interference contemplated," the official BTA news agency quoted Mladenov as saying.

"Everything was done democratically,"

Zhivkov's removal after 35 years in command precipitated a surge of political change in Bulgaria, with Mladenov ousting many veteran hardliners from top Communist Party posts and declaring he was in favour of free elections.

The new leadership also unleashed a torrent of public dissent, pent up for nearly four decades under Zhivkov.

More than 50,000 people chanting for democracy and for Zhivkov to stand trial for corruption thronged central Sofia on Saturday. The rally and other dissident gatherings were given unprecedented cover in the official media in an apparent indication of official approval.

NEWS IN BRIEF

US space shuttle not safe: US space shuttle astronauts run higher risks than their Soviet counterparts despite improved safety following the 1986 Challenger disaster, a British space expert said yesterday.

"If I had the choice of flying in Soviet space ship or the US shuttle, I know which I'd choose," Andrew Wilson, editor of the authoritative Jane's Space Directory, told Reuters. "It would have to be the Soviet craft."

Wilson, who launched the 1989-90 edition this month, said the US shuttle Discovery, due to blast off on Wednesday, was safer than the Challenger which blew up on Jan 28, 1986, after takeoff. (Reuters)

Mrs Mitterrand's car stolen: A trio of gypsy burglars stole an official limousine of French first lady Danielle Mitterrand and used it as a getaway car in a string of thefts in the Biarritz region, police said yesterday.

The dark blue Renault 25, which was to collect the French president's wife from Biarritz airport and take her to their country house, was stolen from a hotel parking lot on Sunday in the Atlantic coast resort of Vieux-Boucau-Les-Bains.

By the time it was recovered, the Elysee Palace car had carried the booty from six thefts, including two supermarkets, a clothes boutique, a restaurant, an electric-appliance shop and a town hall.

The gypsies got away. (Reuters)

Denis Healey retires: The best prime minister Britain never had, the veteran Labour politician, Denis Healey, 72, is to stand down as an MP at the next election, it was reported here Monday.

He made the announcement in a letter to his Leeds constituency party, northern England, saying he wanted to make way for a younger person.

During a career in Parliament as an MP which began in 1952, he served as defence secretary, and Chancellor of the Exchequer in successive Labour governments up to 1979.

His final bid for the Labour leadership was in 1980, the last year Labour MPs decided who should lead them. (Kuna)

Witches invoke magic: Robbed witches danced and chanted in the dark on an English country hilltop, trying to charm Prince Charles out of plans to build a village on farmland he owns in the area.

Five witches from the 200-strong covenant of earth magic invoked psychic powers on Monday night at a makeshift altar in an attempt to influence the heir to the throne to change his mind.

The prince, one of Britain's biggest landowners, plans to build a village near the southern town of Dorchester.

The witches said they were called in by a local woman opposed to the development. (Reuters)

Rescue workers injured: Three rescue workers were injured Monday when a methane gas explosion rocked a mine in eastern Yugoslavia as they tried to reach the bodies of 90 miners killed in a Friday fire, Radio Belgrade reported.

"They have suffered psychological shock, rather than serious physical injuries," the radio said without specifying the injuries.

Earlier, the state news agency, Tanjug, said one person was lightly injured in the blast just before 8:00 am (0700 GMT) at the Aleksinacki Rudnik brown coal mine, some 200 kms (125 miles) south of Belgrade. (AP)

Hungary's rich-poor gap widens: According to recently released figures, 24.6 per cent of the Hungarian population live in families with less than the official subsistence level of 3,600 forints (\$60) per capita monthly income, while a mere 4.7 per cent live in families which earn more than 10,000 forints (\$160) per head per month.

During the 80s the gap between rich and poor has widened considerably, a statistical report indicates.

Salaries for top earners this year are 4.6 times the minimum wage, as compared to 3.8 times in 1982. (Kuna)

Resolution delayed till 1990: Senate minority leader Bob Dole, the chief sponsor of a resolution commemorating the killing of hundreds of thousands of Armenians early in this century, said Monday he was putting off the issue until next year.

مكتبة من الأصل

Herbal remedies described as quackery

No scientific foundation, says Rashed

THOSE who offer herbal treatment for some ailments were described as quacks by the chairman of the Kuwait Medical Society, Dr Abdullah Al Rashed.

He stressed that such quackery must be stopped because there was no scientific foundation whatever for herbal remedies.

In a press statement circulated through the ministries of health and information, he said that to let these quacks continue making their claims and practicing herbal medicine would smear Kuwait's scientific reputation in the world.

He expressed utter astonishment at the claims of certain apothecaries to have discovered special ointments to beautify ladies' bosoms, and other who claimed they had found a panacea for senility.

He said that well-established world medical centre had been unable to find a cure for ageing, and yet apothecaries springing out of nowhere claimed to have discovered the elixir of life.

He denounced claims by these quacks, and said these claims could have a serious negative effect on the present generation,

particularly on the Arab nation where there are many elderly people who need the old age panacea.

He called on these quacks to come forward and obtain a patent for their discoveries.

He asked who would raise a finger to protect people from the experiments of quacks, saying that the experiments could endanger their lives.

He said he had made contacts with top officials at the Health Ministry to put an end to these practices which conflicted

with science and human morals and expressed only a blind lust for material gain by taking advantage of the naive and simple.

He urged those who claimed to have discovered remedies for longstanding human afflictions to come to the Centre of Islamic Medicine to have their remedies analysed and examined to prove their efficiency.

He said the Society would sponsor a symposium on the role of herbal treatment and senior specialists would take part.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oman message

KUWAIT, Nov 21, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir today received Omani Education and Youth Minister Yabya Bin Mahfouth Al Muntheri who delivered to HH a message from Sultan Qaboos Bin Saied of Oman.

The meeting was attended by the Education Minister, Acting Minister of Higher Education, Aswar Al Nouri and the Omani ambassador to Kuwait.

Premier's cable

KUWAIT, Nov 21, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has landed the supreme organising committee of the Friendship and Peace Games Championship's tremendous efforts in preparing and organising the sizeable sports event for Islamic youth.

HH came in a reply cable HH to the committee's president, Sheikh Nasser Moham-

med Ahmed.

The championship, which was organised by HH the Amir, took place in Kuwait from the period October 30 to Nov 12 and gathered athletes of 44 Islamic countries.

Governorates meet

KUWAIT, Nov 21, (Kuna): A meeting for the supreme council of the governorates was held yesterday presided over by His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

The participants in the meeting, including the defence minister, acting interior minister, minister for cabinet affairs, planning minister in addition to the governors, discussed the resolution of organising the government's development for the five governorates in Kuwait to facilitate services for citizens and the residents of Kuwait.

Salem in UK

LONDON, Nov 21, (Kuna): Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem will meet with a number of British officials during his private visit to the United Kingdom.

Sources told Kuna that Sheikh Salem, who arrived here Saturday night enroute from Finland, will meet with his British counterpart David Waddington and Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd.

Talks between Sheikh Salem and British officials will reinforce the excellent relations linking the two countries together and no particular issues will be reviewed, the sources said.

Kuwaiti film

ROME, Nov 21, (Kuna): A Kuwaiti documentary film was screened here today within the framework of a film festival for televised press in the Third World.

The 30-minute film, titled "Revising the Desert" is produced and directed by Talal Shawish.

The film tackles issues pertaining to environment and aspects of life in the desert.



Asparuh Karastoyanov (left) with astronaut Aleksandrov (centre) and Ivanov.

Bulgarian astronauts call for action to save Earth

Production of space meals a speciality

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

BULGARIAN astronauts yesterday called for international action to save the Earth, threatened by rampant pollution and development of space weapons, from degradation.

"We are the people who went into space and saw how beautiful and fragile our planet is and how easy it is to destroy," warned Georgi Ivanov and Aleksandar Aleksandrov, Bulgaria's only two astronauts.

The Bulgarians stopped over in Kuwait on their way home from Riyadh where they attended the Fifth Planetary Congress of the five-year-old Association of Space Explorers.

The association, which groups 86 astronauts from 18 of the 20 nations which have participated in space flight programmes, aims to use their experience and space technology in solving some of the economic and social problems plaguing people on Earth.

Alarm

But the main thrust of the astronauts' latest mission is to alarm the authorities world-wide of the impending disaster if they do not put an end to the destruction of the Earth's ecological systems and if they fail to dismantle spy satellites.

"If we continue polluting our planet at this pace by the beginning of the next century we will have done irreparable damage and no amount of action will be able to reverse the destruction process," Ivanov told a news conference.

He appealed to national authorities not only to stop pollution but also to clean up the polluted areas. Ivanov and Aleksandrov said they saw from their spacecraft several holes in the ozone layer, the depletion of which is responsible for the global warming effect on Earth.

"Space exploration on Earth goes on, but by the end of next century the only way to survive on Earth would be by wearing a space suit," Ivanov pointed out.

Less likely but equally dangerous is the threat from a world war that could break out if spying through satellites and development of space weapons is not restrained, the Bulgarians said.

The cosmos is teeming with spy satellites, launched by Nato and Warsaw Pact countries, that collect information for military use, they said.

Weapons reduction

"We wish to warn the governments involved in these military preparations that our planet can be destroyed easily from outer space," said Aleksandrov.

However, Asparuh Karastoyanov, a leading figure in Bulgaria's space programme and the Association of Space Explorers, sounded a positive note when he expressed hope that the current efforts toward reduction of military might on land would be applied to plans for space weapons as well.

He quoted an American astronaut, Rusty Schweickert, who suggested government officials be sent to space to get a

better understanding of how vulnerable the Earth is and abandon plans for military aggression.

The Bulgarians expressed hope that their country would be involved in three unmanned space flights to Mars planned for the 1990s. The first flight to Mars carrying astronauts is planned for the next century. Several countries will participate in the space programme to explore Mars.

Bulgarians base their hopes on the successful application of their nine space devices, most of them used for research. They were the first to produce equipment to carry out medical checks on astronauts on board the space craft instead of after their return to Earth.

They excelled in production of special foodstuffs for astronauts, first sampled in space in 1979. These have also a wide medical application, helping the sick and injured recuperate faster. Plans are underway to export space meals, already available in the socialist bloc, to the US.

The astronauts expressed confidence that there are other civilisations in space and claimed to have received signals from other galaxies. But they expressed reservations about the veracity of UFOs (unidentified flying objects).

They said they were unable to decipher messages from space but in an effort to establish contact with other civilisations they sent signals into space.

"Much to our regret we have not come across any UFOs," said Ivanov.

Kisr, Nccal to remain autonomous

THE Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashed, denied any intention on the government's part to incorporate the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) in the Ministry of Higher Education and the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters into the Ministry of Information.

He told a local daily that the functions and role played by KISR did not relate to the Ministry of Higher Education exclusively, adding that KISR served different ministries and establishments through projects.

He said that some of the existing functions of the Information Ministry would be transferred to the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, and that the council would continue operating under the minister of state for cabinet affairs.

He said that serious steps had been taken to develop and enhance the role of the council and a higher committee had been formed to offer 15 state prizes each of KD5,000 in various fields of culture, arts and letters.

He said that another higher committee had been formed to support child education and support and develop related activities in Kuwait, through the establishment of special centres for child education.

He said that the government intended to form a special higher committee to be in charge of the national landscaping project, based on a thoroughly thought-out plan, and that over KD5 million would be the cost of a central national library planned for construction over an area of 22,000 square metres, located close to the National Museum.

He said that the proposed library would be able to match the most advanced libraries in the world, and would contain rare collections of books and heritage manuscripts on Kuwait.

Camping area

AHMADI governorate has allocated 650 square kilometres of empty land for campers.

The area lies between Mina Abulula-Wafra Road from the North, Zour Port-Wafra Road from the South, Assafar Motorway from the East and Wafra Farms road from the West.

The governorate urged the public not to erect any tents outside the boundaries of this area under any circumstances.

It also asked them to keep away a distance of at least 500 metres from main roads, oil installations and oil and gas pipelines.

The statement asked the public to keep two kilometres away from military installations.

The governorate banned chalets owners from erecting tents outside their chalets.



Masterplan of the new 1,820,000 sq.m zoo.

New spacious zoo to be set up in S. Ardiya

THE Head of the Zoological Gardens at Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Moosa Abduljabbar Al Khashti, said that a new large zoo will be set up on 1,820,000 square metres of land at South Ardiya.

He told Al Hadaf weekly that the total cost of the project was estimated at KD20 million and it would be implemented during the 1990-95 five year plan.

He added that the zoo had been designed in accordance with latest systems in the world, and would contain a wide variety of animals ranging between the wild mouse and the lion.

He said that the designs were ready for implementation and all the entertainment facilities had been considered during the design process.

He said that the visitors would see many kinds of animals to be seen for the first time in Kuwait.

He added that the new zoo would be distinguished by animals displayed in a new manner which would enable visitors to watch the animals through special towers specially designed for security purposes.

The zoo will be provided with trains in order to enable the visitors to see most of the wild animal cages and the pens of the domesticated animals.

Apart from the above, the project will be provided with cafeterias and restaurants specialising in rare kinds of meals at many locations at the zoo.

He described the project as a marvellous one and the first of its kind in the region.

He said that the zoo will be provided with a number of chalets and the visitors will be able to rent any chalet for one or two days in order to be able to see the different parts of the zoo.

He added that Kuwait will be proud of the zoo, which would become one of its main landmarks.

He said that the zoo would be a scientific reference source of great importance for researchers and students.

He said that the zoo could accommodate about 80,000 visitors daily and was expected to receive about one million visitors a year. He added that the present zoo was accommodating only about 15,000 visitors a day.

He disclosed that the zoo would be divided into three major parts. The first was for display of animals, and had car parking and avenues. The second was for veterinary services, fodder cultivation, and accommodation for zoo employees. The third was for breeding animals.

Annexation

He said that the authority officials, headed by the chairman and director general Sheikh Ibrahim Al Dhaifi, were showing great concern for the breeding of rare animals.

Speaking of the enthusiasm showed by the public towards the zoo following its annexing to Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Khashti said in 1983, when the zoo had been annexed to the authority, about 250,000 people had visited it, while in 1988 the zoo received about 650,000 visitors during the year. Regarding the fate of the present zoo after the opening of the new one, he said that its fate had not yet been decided, but it was likely to be allocated for birds only, because its location was no longer suitable for wild animals since it was near the residential areas. He confirmed that the necessary security measures had been taken to prevent any escaped wild animal from reaching any house. In case any animal tried to escape from the zoo it would be killed immediately, before reaching the fences of the zoo.

Home Videotex services to be offered soon

KUWAIT Videotex services is one of the new and modern services that provide you with information in your own home. The Videotex system supplies information on bank accounts, airlines arrival and departure times, weather conditions, and world news.

Many people don't yet understand the functioning of the Videotex system and its services.

A local daily interviewed a number of officials and operators at the Visual Information Centre of the Ministry of Communications to highlight some of Kuwait Videotex system's characteristics and services.

The Director of the Visual Information Centre, Mehrez Al Otaibi, said that the Videotex system offers subscribers various information through the use of their own terminals which are linked with a central computer containing the information. He added that terminals are distributed among subscribers at their homes or offices and are usually connected to their telephone lines.

These terminals are designed to facilitate communications with the central computer through the use of the ordinary telephone network.

He pointed out that subscribers will have specific numbers to contact the central computer.

When calling, a special index containing various information will appear on the terminal screen. A subscriber must then choose the type of information required.

Regarding terminals, Otaibi said that there are two types of terminals, one was with a black and white screen distributed by the

ministry among subscribers; the other was in a coloured monitor and usually distributed among companies and establishments.

Pages

He said that the Kuwait Videotex system contains a total of 130,000 pages of information. It is a transmitting and receiving facility and can replace a personal computer.

Subscribers are able also to send specific messages through the system's additional memory.

He stated that many other capabilities will be provided in the Videotex system during the implementation of the second stage.

He said that after linking the system with local banks, co-operative societies and others, subscribers will have more information at the tip of their fingers.

Another future project will provide subscribers with the facility of using the videotex system as a telephone information guide and will be an ideal replacement for the 101 telephone information.

Otaibi said that it is possible that the system will be linked with other neighbouring or foreign countries which have the same system to facilitate communications.

He said that this type of service will be presented to subscribers in the future.

He said that the Visual Information Centre has a staff comprising of 40 employees who are distributed among operations, data entry, and maintenance sections. He anticipated an increase in the number of centre staff after starting the actual service.

He pointed out that in the first stage, the Videotex system will offer services 18 hours a

day and in the second stage it will be throughout the day.

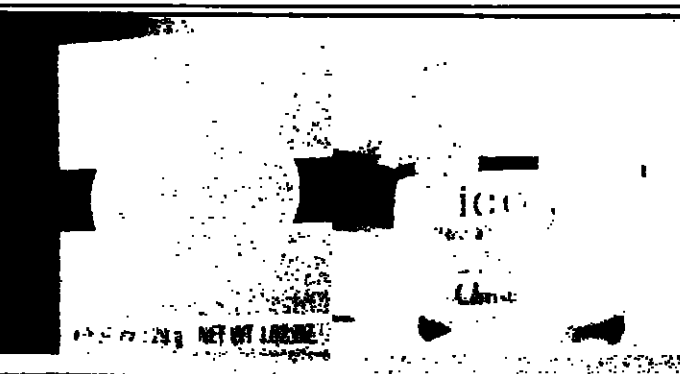
Regarding the methods applied in collecting the information and storing them in the central computer, Otaibi said that this process is conducted with the co-operation of a specialised company.

He said that people who are interested in the service should submit applications for subscription at Ras Al Salamiya Communications Centre. He indicated that subscribers with black and white monitors are required to pay KD100 annual fees for the service in addition to KD20 for installations. Coloured monitors require a fee of KD200 including installation fees.

He pointed out that subscribers should also pay 10 fils for each one minute of the service. Otaibi indicated that the Videotex system has many advantages yet it could have disadvantages through improper use by subscribers.

He said that some subscriber may use the system at their homes as a recreational facility and could feed the computer with misleading information causing loss of time and money. Some other subscribers may illegally use the system also.

Otaibi added that the visual information system (Videotex) depends on collecting various information considered to be important to many residents and citizens in the country. Information will include most real estate, commercial, recreational, touristic, and scientific data which are entered into the computer memory and then classified automatically for subscriber applications.



Icone from Christian Dior

Cutaneous dryness is a problem that concerns all women. In response to this universal problem, the Christian Dior Laboratories provide a personalised answer Icone.

Icone, is the first skincare product based on a regulation principle of lipid-protein-water balance of the epidermis.

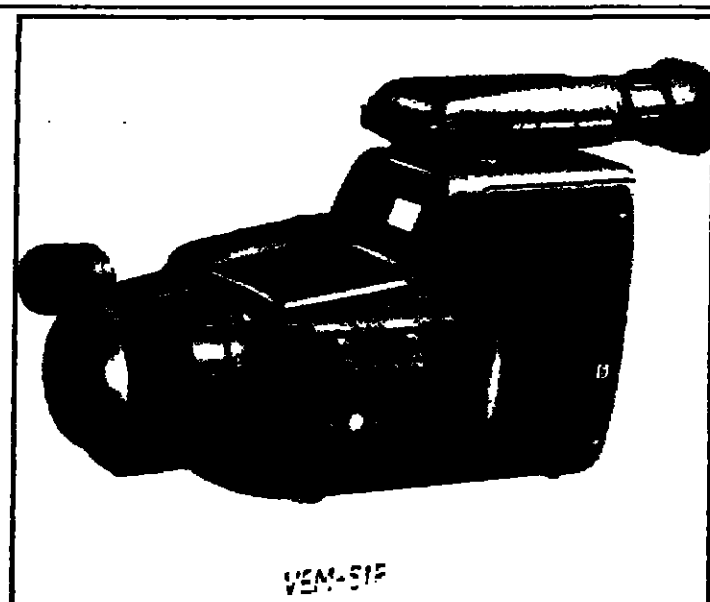
What does all this mean? Icone a specialised cream to combat skin dryness, which actually restores the condition and qualities of normal skin. The product is obtained from biological components, Orthokeratin which is made up of two complementary parts perfectly similar to the natural constitutive elements of the epidermal web.

Icone has undergone an exceptional range of tests in France and in the United States. These were conducted at the Hospital Saint-Louis in Paris under Dr Pons-Guiraud and in Philadelphia, in the Skin Study Centre of Dr Grove. Their conclusions are unanimous.

On all studied accounts, softness, suppleness, the state of dryness, scaling, hydration — the clinical observations of the experts and dermatologists confirm the scientific measurements obtained after one and three weeks of use.

In consumer surveys, Christian Dior Laboratories discovered that consumers appreciate the quality of its texture, its perfect matte finish and its excellent tolerance. Icone answers the demands expressed by all women for a non-oily product imperceptible on the surface, invisible under makeup.

Dry skins will find an all year round solution to their lack of comfort. Feelings of tautness vanish, the skin reawakens, feeling softer, more supple and even, the complexion lights up and retains its glow.



Sanyo's new Camcorder

Sanyo introduces an ultra-compact lightweight 8mm Camcorder, the VEM-S1P.

The VEM-S1P is far more compact than any previous 8mm Camcorder. With the utilization of a newly developed ultra-compact SD (Small Drive and Small Drum) mechanism, the size has been significantly reduced. It measures a mere 99(W)x157(H)x255(D) mm and weighs just 0.9 kgs that fits in the palm of your hand for easy operation — even a child can use it with ease. The VEM-S1P's CCD (Charged Coupled Device) image sensor boasts a 470,000 high pixel count which improves picture quality for higher image resolution.

Other features include digital auto focus and iris, full auto white balance that automatically optimizes the white balance for any conditions for natural colour reproduction. Also equipped with a 1/1000th second shutter speed that catches the fastest action, auto date and time printing, 8 times power zoom and macro, and host of convenient features.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THERE was never yet a philosopher who could endure the toothache patiently — William Shakespeare, English playwright (1564-1616).

Protests in Algeria

Liberal climate spawns strikes

ALGIERS, (Reuters): Masoud Muslim struggled to prop himself up, pinned down by fatigue on the 11th day of a hunger strike to try to win housing for his family.

"Before, they would have cut our heads off for this," he whispered, surrounded by sympathisers in a tent pitched in front of a suburban town council. "At least now you can demand your rights."

After 27 years of stifling one-party rule when strikes and rallies were banned, Algerians are marching, striking and shouting to voice long pent-up grievances.

A wave of protests is sweeping the country from Skikda in the east, where angry workers threatened this month to close the port, to the western city of Mostaganem where students demanded better allowances.

The protests pose a challenge to reformist President Chadli Benjedid as he strives to revive a stagnant economy and create a true multi-party democracy rare in the Third World.

"Democracy has boosted expectations and opened a Pandora's box of long-repressed grievances," said a senior Western diplomat. "Many of these demands are difficult if not impossible to meet."

Constitution

A new constitution, adopted after youth riots rocked the country in October 1988, legalised strikes and rallies. Now rarely a day goes by without some sort of protest.

At the sprawling club Des Pins conference centre west of Algiers, host to Arab summits and an historic meeting last year of the Palestine National Council workers recently ended a 3-1/2 week hunger strike aimed at removing the director.

Mail services came to an abrupt halt in central Algiers on November 15, about the same time that merchants shuttered shops in the eastern city of Annaba to protest at a new price law restricting their profit margins.

In Gue de Constantine, a working-class Algiers suburb of shanties and state housing blocks, 14 residents launched a hunger strike — later suspended — on November 2 to protest against the way they said new homes were allocated.

Masoud Muslim and his colleagues had vowed to live on sugared water until they won a promise of decent housing and the replacement of council members.

They suspended their protest pending a decision by the provincial governor on whether to replace the town council president.

Housing

In a country where a burgeoning population of 24 million lives on average seven to a room, the distribution of new housing is often the spark which ignites sit-ins, occupations of town councils and street demonstrations.

Officials insist that the protests are a natural and healthy consequence of Algeria's "perestroika" — sweeping political and economic reforms aimed at liberalising a state-run economy and installing a Western-style parliamentary democracy.

"The assemblage of acts, gestures and words fill our world to give the impression of a spill-over irritating the march of reforms, even endangering the success of democracy," wrote the editor of the official Algerian news agency APS last week.

"In fact, these are only the very natural manifestations of citizens who have recovered their voice," Belkacem Ahcenejdjallah added.

Social Affairs Minister Mohammed Ghrib said on November 15 that 50 "legitimate" strikes were under way across the country. He attributed them to a lack of clear channels of dialogue within state firms pending new laws on strikes and labour relations.

Protests

Diplomats say the protests do not directly threaten Chadli's reform drive and may even strengthen it by exposing old guard elements of his ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) who are resisting change.

Many of the protests target FLN officials in local government or the official trade union Ugtu who are accused of mismanagement and corruption.

Party reformists say such officials must be replaced if the FLN, of which Chadli is president, is to regain public trust and revive a tarnished image.

But officials have also expressed concern over the effect of labour unrest on an economy burdened by a huge foreign debt, an unemployment rate of more than 20 per cent and double-digit inflation.

The Social Affairs Ministry reported strikes in 90 state industrial firms from November 1988 to June 1989, representing 380,000 lost work-days.

Officials also complain that newly-legal political parties, mainly communists and Islamic fundamentalists, are stirring up trouble for political gain.

"We are all for democracy, but democracy is not anarchy," a senior Ugtu official told Reuters. "Political parties are starting to settle accounts in the factories. It's a way of blocking the economic machine to show their force."

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1699 — Treaty is signed by Denmark, Russia, Saxony and Poland for partition of Swedish empire.
- 1892 — Belgians suppress uprising of Arab slaveholders in upper Congo.
- 1915 — British and Turks battle indecisively at Tishon, Mesopotamia.
- 1943 — Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and China's Chiang Kai-Shek agree at Cairo, Egypt, on measures to defeat Japan in World War II.
- 1947 — Iran assembly nullifies oil agreements with Soviet Union.
- 1962 — Soviet Union announces end of combat-readiness alert of its armed forces imposed at start of Cuban missile crisis.
- 1963 — US President John F. Kennedy is assassinated as he rides in motorcade in Dallas, Texas.
- 1970 — Government of Guinea says it is under attack by mercenaries supported by Portugal.
- 1972 — US President Richard Nixon lifts 22-year-old ban on American travel to China.
- 1974 — UN General Assembly gives Palestine Liberation Organization observer status.
- 1977 — Concorde, British and French supersonic airliner, begins service at New York's Kennedy International Airport after lengthy dispute over noise levels.
- 1986 — Iranian surface-to-surface missile hits residential area in Iraqi capital of Baghdad, wounding 20 civilians.
- 1987 — Authorities accuse Tamil rebels of attacking Indian troops in northern Sri Lanka in violation of 48-hour truce.
- 1988 — South Africa government announces it has joined Cuba and Angola in endorsing plan to remove Cuban troops from Angola.



Several thousand people showing victory signs and the national flag protest at the Wenzel Square in Prague last month. (Reuters wirephoto)

Protests and pressure in Czechoslovakia

Next domino likely to fall

VIENNA, (Reuters): A surge of protests and pressure for reform has suddenly made headlines Czechoslovakia look like the next domino likely to fall to the wind of change blowing through Eastern Europe.

Poland and Hungary are already firmly set on their new, West-leaning courses, political changes continued apace in East Germany as it began reform talks with Germany on Monday, but the focus of East European turmoil was shifting to Prague.

"At no time until now since 1968 has there seemed to be more hope for change in Czechoslovakia," said a Western European diplomat specialising in East European affairs.

After dramatic changes in Bulgaria swept veteran hardliner Todor Zhivkov from power last week, bringing in a reform-minded leadership, Czechoslovakia and Romania are now the only Warsaw pact regimes still resisting "perestroika."

Prague has paid lip service to reform, urging gradual economic change but resisting political liberalisation.

The ruling party's policy-making Central Committee has scheduled a plenary meeting on the economy for December 14, but it could be brought forward to tackle the growing unrest, a Western diplomat said.

In Romania, there is no sign of change. The

country's unyielding Stalinist leader Nicolae Ceausescu opened a congress of the ruling communists on Monday reaffirming the commitment to old-style communism with strict central control.

But in Czechoslovakia cracks in the facade were widening.

Theatres, schools and universities went on strike and urged workers to do the same. Coal miners said they would leave their pits in the first such industrial action since the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion.

"This could be the beginning of the end for the ruling party," said a Czechoslovak who had long believed that the reforms of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would find no echo in Prague.

A new reform group was launched on Sunday night in a Prague theatre and immediately demanded the resignation of Communist Party boss Milos Jakes, who took over from Gustav Husak, installed after the Soviet-led invasion crushed Alexander Dubcek's Prague spring reforms in 1968.

Two small parties — the Socialist Party and the People's Party — until recently subservient to the ruling communists, on Monday criticised police violence and demanded probe.

The growing unease in the regime was underlined by an appeal for calm on Sunday by Czech state Premier Frantisek Pitra.

"No extreme and ill-judged actions can lead our

society forward," he said on television in an appeal for "prudence and civic responsibility."

He spoke only hours after baton-wielding police broke up a protest in Prague, the third in as many days, with protesters demanding a probe into police violence and the ouster of Jakes.

The Communist Party newspaper Rude Pravo has roundly condemned the protests as an attempt to stir up chaos and has rejected dialogue with the opposition.

The new reform group, civil forum, strikes a parallel with East Germany, where a similar group, new forum, played a major role in the "people power" that last month swept out hardliner Erich Honecker, an ally of Jakes.

Public anger in Prague was unleashed by Friday's bloody assault by police and paratroopers on 50,000 demonstrators, resulting in many injured, at least 100 arrests. There was one widespread report, now officially denied, that a young student was killed.

Reports not officially confirmed say Czechoslovak leaders are under pressure from Moscow to liberalise or face a possible invasion of East Germany.

Czechoslovak ideology chief Jan Fojtik was invited to Moscow last week for talks but he denied that the Kremlin was unhappy with the pace of change in Czechoslovakia.

For many childhood is a time of terror and torment

New UN charter to improve children's lot

GENEVA, (Reuters): For millions of youngsters around the world childhood is a time of terror and torment.

Throughout the world they are beaten, tortured, sexually abused, or forcibly conscripted for military service, according to the United Nations and human rights organisation.

Amnesty International has identified several countries which have condoned the execution of minors or people convicted of capital crimes committed before they were 18. The list includes the United States.

An estimated 200 million children between the ages of six and 12 are forced to work.

Some 40,000 died daily of starvation, lack of adequate care or of diseases such as measles.

In an unprecedented effort to change this grim picture the United Nations on Monday adopted the most comprehensive international treaty ever written for the protection of children. Member states must now ratify the treaty before it can take effect.

But opinions are mixed on its usefulness. Critics dismiss the convention on the rights of the child, approved by the UN General Assembly, as another useless piece of international legislation.

They say the treaty, which contains 54 articles covering the specific rights and needs of children in fields as varied as education, adoption and freedom of religion, will be ignored by many of the countries that eventually ratify it.

"It will go the same way as the five-year-old

convention on torture," said one Third World diplomat who pointed out that torture goes on unabated in no fewer than 70 countries, according to human rights organisations.

Promoters of the convention, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in New York after 10 years of sometimes heated debate, strongly disagree.

"Things will obviously not change overnight but governments that ratify the convention will automatically incorporate it into their own laws and will be under strong pressure to abide by it," said Claire Brisset, spokeswoman at the European headquarters of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

A committee on the rights of the child made up of experts will be set up and countries will report on steps they have taken to comply with the charter, she added.

"A country with a massive child prostitution problem, for instance, will simply have to take action once it has ratified the treaty," she said.

Brisset said the convention filled a gap because to date provisions relevant to children were scattered through 80 international treaties and declarations.

"Now we have everything in a single document."

It has taken a decade of intense wrangling at the United Nations in Geneva and New York on many key clauses for the text to reach the General Assembly in its definitive form.

The convention, drafted by the Geneva-based United Nations Centre for Human Rights, defines a

child as a person under 18 for most purposes.

But many Third World countries argued successfully that they might not have won their wars of independence against colonial rule if they had not recruited children under 18.

As a result and despite misgivings from a majority of European states, the convention simply urges nations which sign to refrain from recruiting people under the age of 15 into their armed forces.

To placate reluctant Muslim countries the article on children's rights to freedom of thought, conscience and religion said they were subject to appropriate parental guidance and national law.

"State parties recognise that every child has the inherent right to life," says article six. UN officials said this was sufficiently vague to satisfy pro- and anti-abortion militants.

The draft provides for tight safeguards to prevent unscrupulous intermediaries from making large profits in arranging adoption of children from poverty-stricken environments to wealthier families in industrialised nations.

Countries which sign the convention are expected to recognise children's rights to protection from economic exploitation, from negligence or violence at home as well as their need for privacy.

And they will undertake not to execute or imprison for life people who committed offences when they were under 18.

The convention will come into force once 20 countries have ratified it.

Art Buchwald

Everything in America is for sale

ALL right, so the name "Radio City Tojo Hall" doesn't grab you nor is the Kamikaze Ice Skating Rink at Mitsubishi centre on Fifth Avenue your cup of tea. Don't get mad at the Japanese. Everyone has a right to be in the real estate business these days.

When the news of the Rockefeller Centre sale was announced last week, each family in the United States dealt with it in its own particular way. Nancy Sharp stared at Peter Jennings reading the evening news and then threw a lamp at the television screen. "What is going on?" she screamed.

Her husband, Fred, was fiddling with his Sony VCR, mixing himself a daiquiri with a Toyota blender and thinking of when to get his Nissan tuned up. Nancy's cry brought him back to reality.

"Why would the Rockefeller do that to us?" "It's just business," Fred said. "If they didn't buy it, the Ethiopians would."

Nancy protested, "It shouldn't be allowed. It's part of our national heritage, like Disneyland or Sea World."

"You have to understand, my dear, that everything in America is for sale. People must have money if they are to achieve happiness."

She shook her head. "Not the Rockefellers — they're filthy rich."

"That's what you think," Fred told her. "Did it ever occur to you that there could be many poor Rockefellers scattered among the wealthy ones?"

Nancy remained unconvinced. "Rockefellers can't be poor. That's why they're called Rockefellers."

"Well, smarty, I happen to know that there are Rockefellers who are as poor as church mice. They would just as soon have a basket of Japanese yen as see their name on a building in New York. The word on the street is that the church mice forced David and Laurance Rockefeller to sell everything to the Japanese, including Bryant Gumbel, Jane Pauley and Deborah Norville."

Fred's wife was distraught. "Rockefeller Centre is our shrine, the same as St. Peter's. It's where people go to see the Rockettes kick up their legs and watch ordinary Americans dance on the tops of tables at The Rain Room. It doesn't belong to the Rockefellers — it belongs to you and me."

Fred put his hand on his wife's shoulder. "Don't worry, I'm sure that the Japanese have ice skaters

just as good as ours."

"Why did the Japanese have to be the ones to buy the centre?"

"They have a lot more than Nicaragua. Even Donald Trump is too strapped to close a deal for the place."

How come the Japanese are so rich?" "It's simple," Fred replied. "Everything you see in this room was manufactured by them. Thanks to us Tokyo is drowning in US dollars. But man can't live on dollars alone. The Japanese then transfer the money back here and purchase American real estate with the same dollars. The whole world is buying up this country with our money."

"Before I agree to all this," Nancy Sharp said, "I want to know who is going to run Radio City Music Hall."

"I heard a rumor that Ronald Reagan has been asked."

"Why?"

"Reagan just got back from Japan. You don't think that he went over there for nothing, do you?"

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Letters to the editor

Probe controversies

SIR: In 1947 government of India appointed the Barney committee to probe into complaints about desecration of mosques. The report said in Delhi only 175 mosques were either in occupation of Hindus or government departments. In the West Bengal assembly it was stated by the state government in 1979 that in Calcutta alone 59 mosques were occupied by Hindus. Several newspapers had reported that from Delhi to Pakistan border nearly 9,000 mosques were in the possession of Hindus and other non-Muslims.

This report may be fabrication, concoction or exaggeration in history. For the sake of national integrity and communal harmony we have to keep discretion. We should be very vigilant and cautious when we go through the past history.

It will be very good if the government of India set up a good panel of renowned historians, scholars and eminent leaders to probe these controversies about allegation of religious persecution and demolition of temples and mosques.

The panel should investigate all these allegations and scrutinize all historical evidences in a scientific and impartial manner and announce its conclusions along with the evidences. Only by such a panel with full government support can end these controversies to a great extent.

P.P. Abdur Rahman (Peringadi),
Safat.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the edition process for space or other reasons.

Bush's foreign policy

Best and his worst

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): President George Bush's response to changes sweeping Eastern Europe has highlighted one of his greatest strengths and one of his most significant weaknesses, political and foreign policy analysts say.

They say Bush's much-ridiculed penchant for prudence and patience have served him well in a situation where the United States has limited ability to influence events.

"Waiting to see how things turn out may not look much like leadership, but for this president at this time, it may have been the most prudent thing he could do," said Washington Post political columnist William Raspberry, who has often criticised Bush.

On the other hand, many experts say Bush failed miserably in the inspirational part of his job. When the opening of the Berlin Wall was announced, Bush summoned reporters to the Oval Office to hail the move.

But at a moment that many felt called for him to exult, he pensively leaned back in his chair and groped for words while fiddling with a ballpoint pen.

His subdued performance, played back on TV alongside John Kennedy's moving 1961 "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech and Ronald Reagan's dramatic 1987 "Mr Gorbachev, tear down this wall" address, made Bush seem hesitant and uncertain.

"People like to hear a little music. I'm a Democrat who asks 'where was Ronald Reagan when we needed him?'" said Robert Hunter, a National Security official for former President Jimmy Carter.

While in office Reagan was renowned for his ability to inspire pride and patriotic fervour by reducing even the most complex event to a few apt and memorable lines.

Reagan, a former Hollywood film star, felt inspiration was a major part of his job and once wondered aloud how anybody could be president without being an actor.

One commentator said Bush was so low-key he looked like "a pound of liver" and another called him "some latter-day Nero, fiddling with his ballpoint pen."

Political theatre aside, most experts say it was sensible of Bush to slowly begin the re-examination of old premises and let the tide continue to roll the American way.

"The Bush administration has been criticised for its caution and it sometimes seems that it doesn't know the difference between prudence and paralysis," frequent Bush critic Richard Cohen wrote in the Washington Post.

"But it's hard to know precisely what the president should do. In the face of the political convulsion in Eastern Europe, patience may be the ultimate virtue," he added.

Hunter, now at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, lists several reasons why Bush was correct to step back.

He said Bush was wise not to "stick a finger in Gorbachev's eye" when the Soviet leader is under pressure and cites the general political rule against rocking the boat when things are going your way.

Quote me

"Because of the violent police actions this past weekend during which scores of peaceful demonstrators and US and other international media representatives were brutally beaten, we have decided that the visit to the United States of Czechoslovak Communist Party ideology chief Jan Fojtik is inappropriate at this time." — US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Shifter to Czechoslovakia ambassador Miroslav Houskovec during a 20-minute meeting at the State Department in Washington.

"Beating Steffi is no burning passion. But I know that I have to beat Steffi because chances are I will have to play her in the final of Wimbledon, which is what I want to do. That is my passion, winning Wimbledon one more time." — Navratilova not being honest with herself.

"There have been several occasions on which distressing photographs, which many people found deeply offensive, have appeared in the People. I have therefore concluded reluctantly that a change of editorship is needed." — Publishing tycoon Robert Maxwell after firing the People's editor, Wendy Henry.

هكذا من لاهول

Call for Palestine interim government

New hurdles to PLO-US contacts

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Nov 21, (Agencies): Sari Nusseibeh, a leading Palestinian figure, said a "vacuum of strategy" had developed in the nearly two-year-old uprising and called for creation of a provisional Palestinian government.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Nusseibeh said that "positive energy" was focused on building the institutions of statehood there would be less violence, both among Palestinians and with Israelis.

"I believe over the last few months we have lost the initiative and there has been a vacuum of strategy," he said.

"We haven't had any renewed strategic plan to put into the intifadah (uprising). In my opinion, these two things have helped in creating some of the disorders... the friction and fighting."

A philosophy professor at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, Nusseibeh, said that in the wake of last year's PLO declaration of an independent Palestinian state in the Israeli-occupied lands, "we should have moved, in my opinion, one step further in the direction of state creation. We didn't do that."

He said the PLO's 15-member Executive Committee, for example, should be transformed into a cabinet, parceling out ministerial responsibilities such as health services, education and information.

Palestinian officials in exile and those in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would report to the same "minister," thus alleviating some of the confusion about lines of authority.

He suggested Palestinians now serving in the Israeli-run military government of the West Bank and Gaza could be named as officials of a Palestinian government. Such officials have been urged to resign by underground leaders which have labelled them collaborators.

Nusseibeh said the PLO might "with away" in its present form if the infrastructure of a Palestinian state was created, allowing the PLO to become part of the government.

"I think that people have come to realise here that a Palestinian state is not going to arrive in a wrapped package... sent by the United Nations," he said. "They have to create it."

Palestine told a UN panel political manoeuvring by Israel with the help of the United States would not succeed in dividing the Palestinians and their legitimate leaders.

Speaking in the special committee to investigate Israeli practices, Palestine's deputy permanent observer Dr Riyadh Mansour said the current year has been a variety of these political manoeuvres and there is no end in sight to the exercise in brutality.

A bill passed last week by both houses of the US Congress will place daunting obstacles in the way of dialogue between Washington and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Its requirements, including a ban on contacts with any PLO member involved in the death of an American and regular presidential reports on PLO activities, are part of the State Department funding bill sent to President George Bush for ratification.

The Israeli army, concerned that Palestinians may be turning to guns in their uprising, held an exercise in Gaza Strip this week to test commanders' responses, military sources said.

The exercise involved all army officers in Gaza, military government administrators and other security forces but no troops or field manoeuvres, the sources said.

A PLO official arrived in Cairo yesterday to convey its response to the latest US proposals for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, Egyptian sources said.

Conservatives want to keep an elitist party with conditions for membership.

Pre-congress meetings this week revealed widespread resistance from party hardliners to key elements of Chadi's reforms.

"Political, economic and social reforms remain confronted with fixed positions that prejudice the necessary renovation of our front," the FLN weekly Revolution Africaine said in its current issue.

Shaken by riots in October 1988, when angry youths roamed the streets smashing FLN offices, the party reluctantly backed a new constitution that introduced multi-party politics last February.

Unlike communist parties in Poland and East Germany, recently forced to share power by grassroots protest, the nationalist FLN still runs the government and the official Uqta labour union.

But newly legal opposition parties, especially communists and Islamic fundamentalists, are gaining fast and scores of wildcat strikes challenge the Uqta leadership.

Abdasslem Belaid, a leading hardliner, has called the Nov 28-30 congress the FLN's last chance to remain the country's leading party.

He said earlier this year the FLN risked suffering the fate of communist parties in Eastern Europe whose decades-long grasp on power slipped away when they failed to reform fast enough.

Belaid, father of Algeria's Soviet-style industrialisation programme in the 1970s, favours sweeping changes within the FLN but opposes many of Chadi's economic reforms.

The congress will tackle a proposed party platform that reaffirms socialist economic policies but for the first time clearly endorses multi-party democracy.

Heated debate is certain over liberal economic reforms which the government says are essential to pull the country out of a crisis marked by double-digit unemployment and inflation.

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Soviet-Syrian ties face new realities

WASHINGTON, Nov 21, (Reuters): New realities in the Soviet Union and Syria's ability to pay are among considerations which will affect the level of Moscow's arms supplies, the Soviet ambassador to Syria was quoted as saying.

The Washington Post newspaper quoted Ambassador Alexander Zotov as saying in an interview that Moscow was encouraging Syria to abandon its quest for military parity with Israel in favour of defensive strategy.

Zotov first raised questions about the Soviet Union's commitment to its main Arab ally at an unusual news conference in Moscow two months ago when he told the

Syrians bluntly that Moscow could not be expected to continue providing everything requested by Syria.

He reiterated this in the Washington Post interview, saying that Soviet efforts to meet Syria's future military needs would take into account "the limits of our capabilities" to provide advanced equipment and Syria's ability to pay.

He added one condition — "due observance" to the principle of "reasonable defensive sufficiency."

He defined this principle as the "capability to inflict unacceptable losses" on Israel after an attack on Syria.

Syria has constantly maintained that

"strategic parity" with Israel was the only way to force the Jewish state to withdraw from the Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war, including Syria's Golan Heights.

In an apparent rebuttal of the Syrian strategy, Zotov said in the interview that "military force is not a final argument. It's not a certificate of security... we really believe the balance of forces is an out-of-date approach."

The Soviet Union has long been Syria's main arms supplier and the Washington Post said that as recently as 1986, the largest contingent of Soviet advisers in the

developing world was stationed there.

It said Western analysts first noticed a fall-off in the volume and sophistication of Soviet military hardware going to Syria in 1987.

Zotov said the aim of strengthening Syria's defences "would be to make her potential adversary, supposedly Israel, think twice before planning an offensive action."

He said the Soviet Union recognised Damascus's real need for a modern air defence system because of its "deeply rooted feeling of insecurity" with Israel military positions only 30 miles (50 kms) away.

Algerian party's future at stake

ALGIERS, Nov 21, (Reuters): Faced with mounting pressure for change after 27 years in power, Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) is seeking to avoid the fate of communist parties in Poland and East Germany.

The FLN is settling the pace itself with sweeping internal reforms to be debated at a key party congress next week.

At stake is the future of the party that after unchallenged power must now face free elections next year, party officials say.

Reformists also hope that debate on a thorough overhaul of the party structure will lead to a purge of officials tainted with corruption.

"Let those who enriched themselves on the backs of the FLN go away and spend their money," one reformer told the liberal weekly Algerie Actualite. "Let them quit the FLN, they have already dirtied it enough."

President Chadli Benjedid, also FLN president, seeks solid backing for ambitious reforms he launched last year to liberalise the economy and create a multi-party democracy.

He also wants the FLN to open up to the young and shake out a stagnant party apparatus no longer responsive to the public.

Algerians under 30 years of age form more than 60 per cent of the population but account for only 10 per cent of FLN membership.

Conservatives want to keep an elitist party with conditions for membership.

Pre-congress meetings this week revealed widespread resistance from party hardliners to key elements of Chadi's reforms.

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Vassiliou in Cairo

Egyptian President Mubarak (left) and Cypriot President George Vassiliou review guard of honour at the presidential palace in Cairo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviet PoWs freed

'Russian soldiers crossed into Afghanistan'

MOSCOW, Nov 21, (Agencies): Provisional government of the Afghan opposition today released two Soviet prisoners and handed them over to the Red Cross committee in the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

The release of the Soviet prisoners came as a result of the efforts exerted by Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto, press reports here said.

Afghan opposition is holding more than 340 Soviet prisoners, according to the Soviet official reports.

Afghan rebels yesterday said Soviet soldiers crossed into Afghanistan's northwestern Faryab province and attacked rebel positions and villages near the border.

Meanwhile Afghanistan's official Radio Kabul reported government soldiers reopened the strategic Salang highway, linking Kabul to the Soviet Union.

Rebel fighters have intermittently blocked the capital's critical northern supply route.

Northern Afghanistan's key rebel field commander, Ahmad Shah Masoud, has repeatedly said food and medical supplies would be allowed to travel the Salang highway without trouble.

During the past several weeks, Western diplomats, speaking on

condition they not be identified, reported supply convoys stranded in northern Afghan border towns awaiting a reopening of the Salang highway.

"This highway is open forever," the radio broadcast said.

Battling over the Afghan capital's lifeline with the Soviet Union is delaying pre-winter offensives by the communist government against rebels elsewhere in the country, Western diplomatic sources said today.

The sources, speaking in Islamabad on condition of anonymity, said at least four US-backed rebel groups were playing havoc with supply vehicles bound for Kabul along the Salang highway.

"Although resistance forces along the highway are not able to do more than close it intermittently," one source said, "such attacks are apparently playing a significant role in delaying planned regime operations elsewhere."

As an example, they said the Kabul forces have stopped trying to retake the key mountain stronghold of Pajjak, west of the city, which the rebels captured earlier this month.

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MIDEAST BRIEFS

Yemen summit

KUWAIT, Nov 21, (Kuna): The much-awaited meeting between presidents of the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Ali Abdallah Saleh and Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas will take place in Aden later this month, high-level sources in Sanaa and Aden were quoted as saying to a local daily today.

The sources said that the two leaders will announce an advanced step toward unity between their countries following the meeting. The two countries were one until 1967 because of a bloody civil war, which toppled the monarchist regime.

The daily learnt from the sources that Sanaa proposed the completion of unity within a confederacy, while Aden suggested that a confederacy be the first phase toward unity, which was eventually agreed on by both Yemens.

To plead guilty

WASHINGTON, Nov 21, (Reuters): Private arms dealer Albert Hakim is expected to plead guilty today to a single charge arising from his role in the Iran-Contra scandal, sources close to the case said yesterday.

Hakim, an Iranian-born businessman now living in the United States, played a central role in the covert operation known as the "Enterprise" that provided arms to Iran, funnelled the money through Swiss bank accounts and diverted millions of dollars in profits to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels in 1985-86, when Congress banned US military assistance.

Hakim had been charged with five criminal accounts, including theft of government property as well as conspiring and offering to pay an illegal gratuity to his associate, former White House aide Oliver North.

Sudan aid

KHARTOUM, Nov 21, (Reuters): Sudan's foreign aid donors are threatening to suspend all relief programmes unless they can work in rebel and army-held areas, officials said today.

"The common wisdom now in the United Nations, international voluntary organisations and donor countries is 'all or none,'" one foreign official told Reuters.

The Sudanese authorities told relief agencies they could supply army-held guerrilla towns overland in the south from by six years of civil war, foreign officials said.

But a government ban on relief flights remains in effect.

Jordan parliament

AMMAN, Nov 21, (Kuna): A fierce battle to win the seat of speaker of Jordan's lower house of parliament has been raging among eight contenders ahead of a key vote on King Hussein at the opening of the 80-member assembly next Monday.

Observers here noted that it was the first time in three decades that the feverish atmosphere created by the race for parliament speakership attracted attention more than other political activities such as the formation of the new cabinet and the appointment of members of the upper house, the Council of Nobles.

The 40 members of the council of nobles, which together with the lower house of deputies form Jordan's parliament or "Majlis al Umma," are expected to be named within coming 48 hours by King Hussein who is to inaugurate the new assembly on Monday.

Egypt to buy E-2C

WASHINGTON, Nov 21, (UPI): The Pentagon notified Congress yesterday an offer to sell Egypt one E-2C airborne early warning reconnaissance plane and support equipment for \$84 million.

Egypt already has a fleet of five E-2Cs, which are built by Grumman Aerospace Corp. of Long Island, N.Y.

The sale of this equipment and support will not affect the basic military balance in the region," the Pentagon said.

Aziz in Amman

AMMAN, Nov 21, (Reuters): Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz arrived in Jordan today for talks likely to focus on Gulf peace efforts.

The state-run news agency Petra said Aziz would give King Hussein a letter from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein about UN attempts to mediate a lasting peace between Iraq and Iran.

Petra quoted Aziz as saying Iraq remained willing to co-operate with the United Nations to implement Security Council Resolution 598, on which an August 1988 ceasefire was based.

UK urges Iran

LONDON, Nov 21, (Reuters): Britain urged Iran yesterday to use its influence to gain freedom for British hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon if it wanted better relations with the West.

Hurd reiterated the British government's position of no concessions to hostage-takers which he said would be equal to "rewarding terrorism."

He said Britain had no desire to isolate Iran. "But the future of relations with Iran depends on how they handle themselves if we are to make further progress."



Samir walks by American flag as he arrives at a rally at Edward R Murrow high school in Brooklyn, New York. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bomb topples statue of Pierre Gemayel

US provoking war, accuses Aoun

BEIRUT, Nov 21, (AP): Christian leader Gen. Michel Aoun accused the United States today of trying to drown Lebanon's Christians in "a sea of blood" by provoking a war inside their community.

Aoun also said for the first time that he would be willing to negotiate with Israel on a withdrawal of Israeli forces from a border strip they occupy in south Lebanon.

He spoke hours after a bomb explosion toppled a statue of Pierre Gemayel, the late founder of the right-wing Christian Phalange Party with which Aoun is locked in a dispute over an Arab plan to end Lebanon's Muslim-Christian civil war.

Aoun ridiculed the United States' dispatch of Ambassador John McCarthy to present his credentials to newly elected President Rene Mouawad in the Syrian-controlled north Lebanon town of Ehden on Sunday.

"That was a piece of theatre that pleased no one," Aoun told a news conference at the bunker of the shell-shattered presidential palace in suburban Baabda east of Beirut.

"Mr McCarthy made provocative statements that made me think I am watching a Western movie. He was about to draw and start shooting," said the general, who headed an

interim military cabinet for 14 months.

He was reacting to a McCarthy's statement in Ehden expressing surprise that the Lebanese Forces, the Christians' main militia, took no stand against Aoun's defiant stand against the peace plan and Mouawad's election.

"I am rather surprised that the Lebanese Forces have been so silent about issues that are so fundamental to this country," McCarthy said during his brief stay in Ehden.

His statement was made in a recorded interview with the Lebanese Forces' television station, the Lebanese Broadcasting Corp., after a telephone conversation with the militia's commander Samir Geagea.

"This is an open intervention in our affairs. It violates all diplomatic traditions," Aoun said. "He (McCarthy) is calling for a civil war... he wants Christians to shoot Christians and drown in a sea of blood."

The 6,000-strong Lebanese Forces is the second strongest force in the Christian enclave after Aoun's 20,000-man, mainly Christian Army. The militia has made no public statement yet whether it supports Aoun or Mouawad.

Muawad, a Maronite Christian, was elected president by members of the Lebanese Parliament on Nov 5, to fill the post left vacant when President Amin Gemayel's term ended in Sept 1988. Aoun has used the presidential palace as his headquarters since Gemayel's departure, leaving behind rival Christian and Muslim governments.

Muawad and his Prime Minister Selim

They said such backing would end Muawad's hopes of forming a credible "national reconciliation" government under an Arab-sponsored pact to end 14 years of civil war.

Analysts see months of political, diplomatic, financial and psychological pressure on Aoun, the de facto ruler of Lebanon's Christian enclave who rejects

which is close to the Phalange.

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Arab Times Special Report

Rajiv tested as India goes to the polls

My aim is to topple Gandhi: Advani

'India faces instability'

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): The leader of an increasingly powerful right wing Hindu party said on Tuesday that India faces instability if the opposition alliance he backs wins this week's elections.

Lal Krishna Advani of the revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was harsh in his comments about deep differences between opposition groups that could affect their chances of forming a government.

"It is a mess," Advani said of the arithmetic likely to result from the elections to the 545-member Parliament.

India's 498 million voters decide on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday whether they want a change of government. Opinion polls suggest Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party faces defeat for only the second time in 42 years.

Speaking in a voice hoarse from campaigning, Advani used strong language about the Janata Dal, core of a coalition of five opposition groups called National Front.

The BJP refused to join the alliance, but worked out a seat-sharing deal with it so it would not split the opposition vote. It has promised to support a National Front govern-

ment.

"My objective is to topple Gandhi, to see that dynastic rule in Delhi comes to an end. That in itself would be a boon. I do not see Rajiv returning again if he's defeated this time. He's not Indira Gandhi," Advani said in an interview.

Rajiv, his mother Indira — who bounce back after losing elections in 1977 and was assassinated seven years later — and his grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru have ruled India for 37 years of its 42 years of independence from Britain.

If Rajiv loses, the Janata Dal's Vishwanath Pratap Singh is the frontrunner to succeed him. He is unlikely to get the job without a fight from other ambitious opposition leaders.

"I visualise a period of political instability. I do not see the Janata Dal as a stable entity. It is here today, it may not be there six months hence. It may fragment again. There may be fresh realignments," Advani said.

"I have not decided today as to whether I shall be in the government or not. How, on what terms, what kind of programme the

government will have. All these things have to be seen."

The immediate focus of Advani's anger is Singh's wooing of India's 100 million-strong Muslim minority, whose leaders have told them to vote against Congress because of the outbreak of violence between Muslims and militant Hindus.

"I am angry with centrist parties generally. They're keen to use me. They cannot ignore my cadres. If today I were to declare that I'll have no truck with the Janata Dal, 80 per cent of the Muslim vote will go to the Congress," Advani said.

The deepening religious rift, from which the BJP appears to have benefitted, has been a major campaign issue.

"The average leader has come to behave in a manner as if all citizens may be equal but the minorities are more equal than the majority. This is creating a violent reaction," Advani said.

"It is these political leaders who are interpreting secularism in a perverse manner. They think that a Muslim saying 'I'm proud of Hinduism' is... a fanatic."

Sonia takes it in her stride

AMETHI, India, (Reuters): While Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi jets around the nation in a campaigning frenzy, his Italian-born wife has been diligently keeping the home fires burning.

The victims of constant opposition taunts because she is a foreigner, 41-year-old Sonia Gandhi has been an indefatigable campaigner on her husband's behalf in his own parliamentary constituency of Amethi.

One song describing Rajiv as a dog and his wife as "an Italian bitch" drew enthusiastic applause from the crowd at one opposition rally earlier this week.

Leaders of the National Front opposition alliance rarely pass up an opportunity to poke fun at the prime minister's wife of 21 years.

The jibes contrast sharply with the respect — almost veneration — Mrs Rajiv has been shown as she tours the sprawling Amethi constituency in the electorally vital north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

"Long live Rajiv Gandhi" roared the crowd which gathered as soon as Mrs Rajiv stopped in one small Amethi village on Monday, the last day of campaigning before elections start on Wednesday.

There was also a catchy Hindi-language slogan hailing Mrs Rajiv herself as a harbinger of progress.

"My husband has done tremendous development work in this region," Mrs Rajiv, a fluent Hindi speaker, told the crowd in a flawless accent.

"If you want the pace of development to continue then please vote for him," she added, steering clear, as in all her public addresses, of controversial topics such as religious violence and corruption — two main election issues.

Mrs Rajiv and her teen-age daughter Priyanka have not set foot outside Amethi for the past two weeks, while Rajiv has been hopping around the country addressing 10-15 meetings each day.

The two women have been on the campaign trail from early morning to late at night.

Apart from their white, bullet-proof Mercedes, security is minimal, although Mrs Rajiv rarely speaks to the press and usually stay well clear of journalists.

Mrs Rajiv, her brown hair worn long in conventional Indian style and wearing saris, appears confident enough to stop where ever she feels it is appropriate.

Outside Amethi, though, criticism of Mrs Rajiv is not confined to opposition politicians looking to score points.

"It's an absolute disgrace that a foreigner should be occupying India's top woman's job," a wealthy housewife in the north Indian city of Amritsar told a visiting journalist recently.

In her campaign speeches, Mrs Rajiv retorts: "I may be a daughter of Italy, but I am a daughter-in-law of Amethi."

Communists hope to gain May emerge as power brokers

NEW DELHI, (UPI): This week's national elections may place India's two communist parties in a strong position to influence the formation of a new government and future national policy as the fortunes of their comrades in Eastern Europe decline.

The potential for the leftists to emerge as power brokers is rooted in the real possibility that neither Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party nor its main opponent, the five-party National Front Coalition, will win a parliamentary majority.

"Rajiv Gandhi is losing ground everyday. That is very clear," said C. Rajeshwara Rao, the general secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI). "We want the left parties and forces to unite to play a significant role immediately after the polls."

Recent media surveys suggest the Congress (I) Party will lose its 415-seat majority in the lower house of Parliament, or Lok Sabha, and capture only about 200 of the 524 seats in polling on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. But the surveys also indicate that the National Front will win about the same number of seats.

"There is a good prospect of a hung Parliament with no parties winning majority seats to form the government," said K.R. Sundar Rajah, a nationally syndicated columnist.

It was with such a scenario in mind that the CPI and the larger Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) devised their electoral strategies, the ultimate goal of which is to command a bloc of some 60 seats in the house.

The two, which had a total of 28 seats, agreed to avoid running candidates against each other and are contesting a total of 120 races.

To safeguard most of their candidates, the two parties forged partial "seat adjustment" agreements with the National Front, which is headed by the centrist Janata Dal of Rajiv's main rival, Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

"One or two members of Parliament of this type might be a good thing. It's not the bullet, but the ballot that should decide matters," said a high-ranking state official.

Five years ago, Khalsa ran for two seats in the lower house of Parliament, or Lok Sabha, narrowly losing both races.

This time, she is concentrating only on the northern state's Ropar district, which she is storming in a flower-decked jeep flanked by sword-wielding supporters and an escort of turbaned motorcycleists.

"They (the communists) knew they could not form the government in New Delhi, but hope to tilt the balance either way and play a decisive role," said Rajni Kothari, a political scientist with the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

"The communists are more disciplined and hope to provide certain stability and also influence the policies of the government," Kothari said.

"We will participate in a government if we have the adequate strength in it to guide its course and implement measures for the masses," said Dipen Ghosh, a CPI-M Member of Parliament. "Otherwise, we will lead support to the National Front."

Despite Ghosh's assertions, however, many experts do not

discount the possibility that the communists could renege on a vow against supporting a minority Congress (I) Party government if the ruling monolith captures a plurality of seats.

The communists played such a role in 1969 when Rajiv's mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi, split her party in a revolt against senior bosses and sought left wing support to maintain a minority government until she called elections in 1971.

In 1979, the communists contributed to the fall of the feud-riven Janata Party government of Morarji Desai by withdrawing their support.

Unlike their counterparts in Eastern Europe, India's communist parties have been flexible in their interpretation of ideology, accepting the principles of market economies and, in the states where they rule, encouraging private enterprise and foreign investment.

The CPI was the first Communist Party in the world to win power by the ballot and not the bullet, capturing a majority in the assembly of southern Kerala state in 1957 elections. It was rejected in the following polls in 1962.

In 1964, the pro-Chinese CPI-M broke away from the CPI as a result of the Sino-Soviet divide. The CPI-M currently heads governing coalitions — of which the CPI is a member — in Kerala and West Bengal.

The CPI-M also had ruled northeastern Tripura until last year, when it was defeated by the Congress (I) Party. However, it still retains major influence in the state.

West Bengal has seen uninterrupted communist rule since 1977 under Jyoti Basu, a British-educated lawyer and the country's most prominent communist leader. No other chief minister has ruled a state for so long.

The BJP has fielded 205 candidates, hoping to win about 80 seats and assume the role of a power-broker.



Poor's show

Supporters of a candidate, unable to afford the expenses of maintaining fleets of cars and jeeps to campaign for the general elections settle for the humble bicycle, mounted with a loud speaker in the north Indian town of Mathura. (Reuters wirephoto)



All smiles for the future

V.P. Singh (right) shares a joke with an old villager during his campaign for general elections on Wednesday. Singh is the combined opposition candidate at the Indian elections. (Reuters wirephoto)

All the eyes on V.P. Singh

Rama Rao plays election drama

Ambitions run strong

FATEHPUR, India, (AP): Hindu priests left their temples. Doctors stopped work at a leper clinic. School children abandoned their classrooms, and motorists deserted the dusty narrow roads in northern India.

All wanted to see Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the opposition politician who could emerge as India's next Prime Minister.

Singh is the leader of a loose-knit opposition coalition trying to oust Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government in parliamentary elections. Voting begins Wednesday and continues Friday and Sunday.

The 58-year-old Singh is vying for a seat in Parliament's law-making lower house from the Fatehpur constituency.

Fatehpur, which means "the place of triumph" in Urdu, is 600 kilometres (375 miles) east of New Delhi on the banks of the Ganges river.

"My winning is not an issue here," Singh said recently as he travelled 100 kilometres (60 miles) along bumpy roads to reach voters in remote villages. "The issue is the defeat of the Congress Party, the eradication of corruption."

Singh, once Rajiv's most trusted minister and now his fiercest political foe, and his 25-vehicle caravan stopped about every five kilometres (three miles) so Singh could speak to supporters.

Opinion polls released in the past week show the opposition coalition National Front could oust Rajiv and his Congress Party.

The opposition has accused Rajiv's government of high-level corruption, alleging the Swedish arms manufacturer AB Bofors paid as much as \$50 million in kickbacks to get a \$1.4 billion contract to provide the Indian Army with artillery guns.

Rajiv has denied the accusation, but the scandal has hurt his

NANDYAL, India, (Reuters): The official leader of India's opposition alliance, who plays Hindu gods in films, has entered the final act of an election drama seeking to topple Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, political heir to the Nehru dynasty.

N.T. Rama Rao, chairman of the five-party National Front Alliance, has been telling the country — telling — enthralled crowds to "throw Rajiv's corrupt government into the Bay of Bengal" when polling begins on Wednesday.

Although Rama Rao is the formal head of the alliance, he is unlikely to become prime minister if the opposition wins.

The front runner for that slot is former Rajiv ally Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the man largely responsible for forging an almost united opposition.

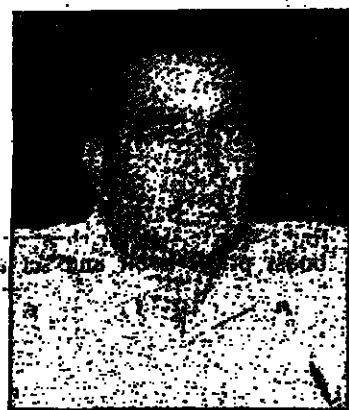
But ambitions for India's top job run strong among the opposition leaders and even their supporters predict a sharp battle for the post. Rama Rao will be in the middle of the fight, they say.

He accuses Rajiv of "lying and cheating the nation" by taking 2.5 billion rupees (\$150 million) in illegal commissions from Sweden's Bofors company to

popularity. "There is no doubt that we are going to win," said Singh as he waved to a group of schoolchildren.

To many people in Fatehpur, Singh has become a local hero, a rebel crusading against alleged government corruption.

"He is the best man to become the prime minister," said Abdul



Rama Rao

buy hundreds of field guns in 1986.

The issue has been plaguing Rajiv for months. He has consistently denied the allegations, for which no direct evidence has been produced.

In a speech at Nandyal, a farming village in Andhra Pradesh state, Rao also accused Rajiv — son of assassinated prime minister Indira Gandhi and grandson of first premier Jawaharlal Nehru — of betraying mother India, a potent symbol of Hindu nationalism in this country where 650 million profess Hinduism.

Jabbar, a 70-year-old priest at a local mosque. "Fatehpur will have a prime minister now," said Rabbubir Singh, a 55-year-old farmer.

Many residents have already started calling Singh the "pradhan mantri," or prime minister. Singh does not discourage them.

"This is a people's wave," Singh said at a campaign rally

"Mother India has to hang her head down in shame when her own sons of the soil have sold her publicly in defence deals," he declared.

Dressed in a saffron leisure suit, and wearing a carring, gold pendant and a white strip on his forehead, the 67-year-old Rama Rao is considered bizarre even in the colourful arena of Indian politics.

He is a cult figure in India's fifth-largest state of Andhra Pradesh, which he has governed for the past six years as chief minister.

Some in the crowd rushed to him after he spoke trying to touch his feet in the Hindu custom of reverence.

For many, Rama Rao is the personification of the Hindu gods and heroes he has portrayed in more than 320 films over the past 30 years.

But he has fallen foul of India's Election Commission for propagating himself in the image of deity. The commission ordered a 30-foot plywood cut-out depicting Rama Rao as Lord Krishna removed from a busy Delhi intersection because it was a "blatant exploitation of religious sentiment."

At the end of the day, Singh was greeted by a slogan-shouting procession of supporters.

"He is not king, but a saint," they chanted in unison. Singh smiled, his hands outstretched.

Sikh radicals poised for election wins

SAMRALA, India, (UPI): Coarse Sikh war cries rent the air, heralding the arrival of Bimal Khalsa, the widow of an assassin of Indira Gandhi and one of four candidates who could sound the call for Sikh autonomy from the floor of the Indian Parliament.

The fielding in this week's elections of the four — two of whom are in jail — has raised hopes that Sikh radicals may be turning from violence and opting for legitimate politics to further their demands for greater self-rule for predominantly Sikh Punjab.

"One or two members of Parliament of this type might be a good thing. It's not the bullet, but the ballot that should decide matters," said a high-ranking state official.

Five years ago, Khalsa ran for two seats in the lower house of Parliament, or Lok Sabha, narrowly losing both races.

This time, she is concentrating only on the northern state's Ropar district, which she is storming in a flower-decked jeep flanked by sword-wielding supporters and an escort of turbaned motorcycleists.

Calcuttans have more important things to do than bother with polls

CALCUTTA, (Reuters): The six Bengalis splashing around a fire hydrant inches from cursing bus-drivers in the evening traffic are worried about their daily bath.

"Election? What election? I have a holiday on polling day and plan to visit my mother," says Barun Halder, dodging a flailing mass of limbs and washing.

Every evening as the Hooghly river swells with the high tide, Calcutta's sewers are turned into torrents that are welcomed by the homeless thousands camping on the pavements of India's most populous city.

But although many Calcuttans have far more

important things to do than bother about the general elections which start next Wednesday, the campaign has left its distinctive mark here.

Calcutta is graffiti city.

Every inch of wall is covered by election slogans. The eye is bombarded by images of the hammer and sickle of West Bengal's ruling communists or the upraised palm of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party.

Hundreds of budding Picassos find the walls an inviting canvas. Bengalis are, after all, reputed to be the most artistic of Indians.

The staid Statesman newspaper on Thursday noted querulously that political parties were

of some 600 Sikhs, many of them innocent pilgrims.

Beant Singh, a New Delhi police officer assigned to Indira's security detail, was killed by other bodyguards, while an accomplice, Sarwant Singh, was wounded. He was convicted of the assassination and hanged in January with another Sikh.

Banking largely on her reputation, Khalsa may prove correct in predicting her victory when

Punjab selects 13 new Lok Sabha members on Sunday, the last of three polling days that could deal to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party its second general election defeat since independence in 1947.

"Maybe she is giving expression to anti-government feelings," speculated the state official, who believes Khalsa could win. "She is symbolising that. Otherwise, you cannot

explain it."

Said Labh Singh, a 55-year-old farmer: "We are supporting her because of the oppressive policies of the Congress (I). The police are arbitrarily doing things here and harassing everyone. How long can one stand such humiliation?"

New Delhi, which assumed control of Punjab in May 1987 after dismissing the elected moderate Sikh administration

for failing to curb bloodshed, denies that security force personnel commit atrocities and excesses in their war to end the Sikh insurgency.

But privately, officials admit such problems do occur and have fuelled support for Khalsa.

While some observers dispute Khalsa's electoral fortunes, none doubt forecasts of victory for Simranjit Singh Mann, a former police officer now in jail.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Jordan nears bank rescheduling accord

AMMAN, Nov 21, (Reuters). Jordan has almost finalised a debt rescheduling deal with its commercial bank creditors after 10 weeks of haggling over terms, banking sources said today.

Jordanian officials confirmed they had reached an agreement in principle with a representative of a six-member steering committee negotiating for more than 90 Western and Arab banks grouped in the London club of commercial creditors.

They were reluctant to disclose details until the full committee had approved the package, which adds a new money element

to terms agreed provisionally in September.

The banking sources said Jordan was set to secure \$45 to \$50 million in new bank loans to cover the financing gap and settle some arrears in interest payments. Otherwise terms were unchanged from those agreed in Amman on Sept 10.

Jordan had sought to cut the interest margin from 13/16 point over Libor to 5/8 point and had asked banks to release undistributed portions of current loans, worth \$48 million.

The September accord said banks would

defer repayments of \$575 million of principal due between Jan 1, 1989, and June 30, 1990, on debts of \$1.1 billion.

The payments would be rescheduled over 11 years with a five-year grace period when only interest would be paid. Jordan agreed to pay punctually interest due on debts to commercial bank creditors in 1989 totalling \$82 million.

Jordan's foreign debt totalled \$8.2 billion at the end of 1988, including \$1.1 billion in undistributed loans. Before rescheduling, it faced repayments of \$1.21 billion this year and \$1.28 billion in 1990.

It reached a rescheduling agreement with the Paris Club of government creditors in July and has since signed five bilateral accords with club members, including West Germany and the United States.

Gulf International Bank BSC and Standard Chartered Bank are co-chairmen of the London Club steering committee for Jordan set up in July. Other members are Banque Nationale de Paris, Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co. and Union des Banques et Finances (UBAF).

Two British projects granted initial OK

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 21, (Reuters). The Saudi economic offset committee has granted initial approval to two British investment projects connected with the Al Yamamah economic offset programme, diplomatic sources said today.

The go-ahead marked a breakthrough in a 3-year-old process by the Saudi committee to bring Britain to "offset" part of the value of arms deals in joint projects in the kingdom.

The Saudi bid, aimed at transferring technology to boost the kingdom's economy, was first made in 1986 in connection with the purchase of Awacs, or Advanced Warning and Control Systems, seven years ago. The offset scheme of peace-aid, as the deal was dubbed, is well under way.

The Al Yamamah deal, which involves the purchase of 100 F-16 fighter jets, is worth more than \$25 billion.

The British government agreed to encourage UK firms to invest approximately \$2 billion in Saudi-British joint ventures.

Informal sources said the first two British offset projects have been approved by the Saudis in principle, but that both ventures are not yet at the feasibility stage. The first is a joint venture between US firms General Electric and Pratt & Whitney, and Saudi partners.

Under the British proposal, Rolls Royce would join in the venture by investing about \$5 million and taking a share of the 50 per cent stake in the company held by GE and Pratt & Whitney.

The second proposal is a missile engineering facility with British Aerospace and Dowty taking a 50 per cent stake in the 360-million-dollar (\$360 million) venture and the remainder held by Saudi investors.

Economic measures approved

MOSCOW, Nov 21, (Reuters). The Soviet parliament approved an emergency package of price production controls as well as curbs on the exports of fur, electric equipment and other goods on Monday in a bid to fill the country's emptying shop shelves.

Signalling concern at a possible popular backlash against growing shortages, deputies approved by 371 votes to 33 the measures, which were proposed by Leonid Abalkin, a deputy prime minister in charge of the economy.

However, the Supreme Soviet rejected without a vote a non-urgent proposal by human rights campaigner Andrei Sakharov to introduce country-wide rationing of basic items.

The new measures appeared at odds with the liberal tenor of President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reform programme, which calls for an end to the rigid state controls that have plagued the economy into its current crisis.

Abalkin, who has been one of the leading voices criticising this old so-called "command-administrative system," justified the apparent about-face as a temporary solution to pull the economy out of its immediate crisis.

Iran sells Lanka 500 buses

NICOSIA, Nov 21, (Reuters). Iran has signed a letter of understanding with Sri Lanka to supply 500 buses worth \$21.5 million, the Iranian news agency Irna said today.

Irna, received in Nicosia, said the agreement was signed today by Iran's Heavy Industries Minister Mohammad Hadi Nejad-Hosseini and Sri Lankan Minister for Transport and Highways Wijayapala Mendis.

Mendis left Tehran for home after a four-day visit to Iran today, Irna said.

Organisation's luck may not hold next year

Opec likely to reach accord

NICOSIA, Nov 21, (Reuters). The oil minister of non-Opec Oman said in remarks published today that he expected Opec states to reach agreement in talks on quotas in Vienna on Saturday.

"There is a strong hope that Opec states will succeed in reaching a new agreement to support prices and to back the situation in the world oil market," said Bin Ahmed Al Shanfari told Oman newspaper published in Muscat.

Independent oil analysts say Opec is unlikely to forge a watertight accord and that prices are likely to fall early next year.

Shanfari predicted prices would remain at a "reasonable level."

Oil prices are up even though cheating on production quotas has lifted output to its highest level since 1981.

The ministers of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries want to find a way to stop the cheating, boost prices a bit and set a

Sheikh Ali for Austria

KUWAIT, Nov 21, (Kuna). Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa leaves here tomorrow for Austria heading an official delegation to attend Opec's ministerial pricing and production monitoring committee slated to open meetings in Vienna tomorrow.

The minister is also to attend the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries ministerial conference scheduled there on Nov 25. Kuwaiti ambassador to Austria Abdul Hamid Al Awadhi, board chairman and managing director of the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company Abdul Fattah Al Bader along with other officials accompany Sheikh Ali.

production ceiling in line with consumer demand in the Gulf.

If they raise their output ceiling too high, "they're running the risk of jeopardising the whole party" by flooding the market, warned Peter Gignoux, international energy director for Shearson Lehman Hutton in London.

"It's going to be a very difficult meeting," predicted Pierre Terzian, editor of the Petrostrategies oil newsletter in Paris.

Ministers of eight of the oil-producing nations gather Thursday for a meeting of the organisation's monitoring panel. All 13 meet Saturday for the start of their key winter meeting.

Just a year ago, prices were in the doldrums. The average price of seven crude monitored by Opec was \$12.34 a barrel, well under the organisation's target of \$18.

Since then, prices have risen sharply. Last week, the Opec basket was \$17.76 a barrel. It briefly topped the \$18 mark last spring.

But prices are now sliding, and Opec's target for next year is expected to slip.

Intermediate, the benchmark American crude, has been running about \$20 a barrel.

Early in the year, the oil-producing nations curbed production to help drive up prices. But in recent months, they have turned their taps wider, without hurting prices.

"There's not the same pressure to come up with a novel compromise," said Ian Graham, analyst at County NatWest in London.

Not since the spring of 1981 has Opec produced so much, according to figures from the International Energy Agency. Its output amounted to 23.2 million BPD in the second quarter of that year.

Analysts say the organisation's luck may not hold next year when demand for their oil is expected to slip.

The International Energy Agency predicted earlier this month that demand for Opec crude in the first half of 1990 would be a bit under 21 million BPD.

Analysts see inconclusive Opec talks

Prospects now fading

TOKYO, Nov 21, (Reuters). Opec is unlikely to forge a leak-proof new production pact at its November 25 meeting, and oil prices will be weaker at least in the first few months of next year, Far East oil analysts said today.

"Opec ministers are going to be confronted with very big problems," said a Japanese trader.

Disagreement over current output quotas have led at least some members of the 13-country oil producers' organisation to break ranks, and pushed the group's output some three million barrels per day (bpd) over its self-imposed limit.

And prospects are now fading that a proposal to raise the present 20.5 million bpd ceiling and reallocate quotas disproportionately will be accepted at this weekend's biannual talks in Vienna, although it was greeted favourably when initially

presented to Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' ministers in September.

"They change their minds like the wind," said George McLaughlin, an oil analyst at Shearson Lehman Hutton in London.

The main alternative to the September proposal would be to work out a scientific quota system based on production capacity and reserves.

But analysts say that is not likely to be achieved before the current Opec production pact expires at the end of the year.

Strong demand has so far soaked up the excess barrels and prices have risen fairly close to Opec's \$18 a barrel target this year.

But the world's appetite for Opec's oil is likely to fall in the first quarter of next year after seasonal demand for winter heating fuel is satisfied, and

prices will slide unless output is curbed.

"The price will certainly not exceed the current level. It's more likely to go down," said a Japanese oil economist.

He said the current relative firmness of oil prices may in fact also hinder agreement at the coming Opec talks.

"The price is okay at the moment so they are less likely to make compromises."

Most oil analysts agree Opec works best in a crisis and that if prices do fall dramatically, the group is likely to take quick action to support the market and protect members' revenues.

They said the ministers may follow the current agreement into next year, see how the market reacts, then take concrete steps if a sharp fall in prices ensues.

Bourse braces for boom on new government

ATHENS, Nov 21, (Reuters). The Greek bourse braced for a boom after politicians ended two weeks of squabbling today and agreed to an all-party government to lead the country out of crisis and head off more elections in December.

"We could see a 10 per cent rise tomorrow in the general market index," said broker Basil Hadjilias.

"We expect to see foreign investors return in a big way."

The index has been on a roller-coaster ride since Nov 5, driven by political uncertainty after an inconclusive general election which was followed by a hung parliament.

But fuelled by reports that a deal on an all-party government to end the crisis was near, the general index rose to 474.83 today, its highest level since the election. The market hit a post-election low of 443.20 last week.

"Remember, that rise came on expectations of an agreement but the market closed before the deal was announced," Hadjilias said. Most brokers agreed the boom would begin tomorrow.



Nazih Khattar (third from left) and to his left A.M. Hangeman, president of IASA pictured with other participants.



Some of those who attended the cocktail party.

IASA holds general assembly

THE International Air Shipping Association organised its 37th biannual general assembly meeting yesterday at the Regency Palace, Kuwait. More than 70 delegates representing international air freight companies took part in the meeting.

The meeting discussed several topical issues such as the EEC developments after 1992, global

isation and integrated operations, various technology changes, door to door services, and world trade development and protection issues.

Nazih Khattar, managing director of the Kuwait-based firm Al Naqeeb and Khattar said IASA was established in 1971, primarily to set up, world-wide

network in order to pool resources and working closely together. There are currently more than 34 members in 31 countries. Al Naqeeb and Khattar also hosted a cocktail party on Monday. It was attended by airlines managers, representatives from Civil Aviation and Kuwait Airways. The meeting will come to an end today.

Banks pressed to take on dubious customers

ZURICH, Nov 21, (Reuters). Swiss national radio reported today that government officials and the Swiss National Bank pressed banks to accept deposits from unscrupulous leaders in the 1970s in order to bolster the flagging Swiss economy.

Swiss Broadcasting Corporation quoted secret testimony before a parliamentary committee by Robert Studer, chief executive of Union Bank of Switzerland, the country's largest commercial bank.

Studer told the committee officials had also urged Swiss banks to make loans to Third World countries that the banks thought unwise, the radio reported.

Asked whether banks face political pressure to accept deposits from leaders of impoverished countries with which Switzerland enjoys normal relations, Studer said: "I could name names in which we were urged in this way to have good relations with some countries because of the Swiss export industry."

"There have been cases 15 years ago, as the unemployment rate was high, when we, that is, Swiss banks, opened accounts. We made mistakes, but we have become wiser and more sensitive to the issue."

Studer's bank confirmed he had testified to the committee, but had no copy of the report. There was no immediate reaction from the government or the Swiss National Bank.

The radio report did not quote specific cases, but said Swiss banks administered an estimated 250 to 300 billion Swiss francs (\$155 to 185 billion) for private customers in some of the poorest Third World countries.

Largest ever shipment 'MDF edges absolutely smooth'

OVER three thousand cubic metres of medium density fibreboard (MDF) was recently unloaded at Dubai's Jebel Ali Port, marking the largest ever shipment of its kind to arrive in the Middle East.

The boards were consigned to Tafsina Internacional, the first of the world's major timber producers to establish a distribution facility in the Gulf.

Tafsina, based in Spain, is today acknowledged to be the world's biggest manufacturer of MDF and currently produces more than 500,000 cubic metres of medium density fibreboards per annum.

In addition, the company also manufactures over two million cubic metres of other wooden boards, at its 10 fully-automated plants in Spain, Portugal and Ireland.

Robert Seropian, managing director of Tafsina Internacional's Middle East branch, said that the company hopes to annually import about 30,000 tonnes of wooden boards for redistribution throughout the GCC states, so shipments like the first may possibly become a monthly feature.

From its warehouse in Jebel Ali, Tafsina will supply its entire range of products to furniture manufacturers, construction companies, carpentry workshops and timber dealers throughout the Gulf, Iran and Iraq, in any quantities that may be required. Such companies in the past were often plagued by lengthy lead times and shipping delays, but Tafsina hopes to eliminate those problems by maintaining a significantly large inventory of stock.

"Since its introduction in Europe five years ago, MDF has rapidly and effectively replaced plywood, chipboard and even solid wood in a diverse range of applications. Cracking, warping, chipping and other problems associated with conventional boards are completely eliminated by MDF," Seropian said. "MDF edges are absolutely smooth and free of splinters, whilst the surface provides an even, high gloss without the need for fillers, primers and multiple coats of lacquer. Being highly water resistant, MDF is ideal for use in kitchens and areas with high humidity."

According to Seropian, "MDF is the most viable, convenient and cost-effective alternative to chipboard or plywood and is now being used world-wide for the manufacture of kitchen cabinets, doors, panelling, partitions and exhibition displays."

Technical experts from Tafsina Internacional will visit the Gulf regularly to advise users on the technical aspects and usage of MDF. "Tafsina's expertise in furniture production will also be available to local manufacturers of furniture," Seropian added, "and companies wishing to establish a manufacturing unit in the Gulf will be able to obtain complete project assistance, including equipment specification, product planning and design."

Robert Seropian is no newcomer to the furniture industry in the Middle East. He has been active in the region for over 30 years and still remembers his early days in the Gulf, long before the advent of bridges, highways and luxury hotels. His numerous contacts in the furniture business will be a definite asset to Tafsina's Middle East operations.

Expiring tax credit casts shadow over solar firms

NEW YORK, Nov 21, (Reuters). The future of the \$500 million US solar energy industry is clouded by the pending expiration of a business tax credit.

The industry, whose prospects soared along with oil prices during the 1970s, is facing the loss of an incentive that spurred investment and helped nurse it through its infancy, industry officials and analysts say.

But lower oil prices have crimped demand for alternative sources of power, such as solar and geothermal energy, and federal investment in the newer technologies has dropped sharply.

The tax credit, part of a federal business energy credit programme, gives a 10 per cent tax break on purchase and installation costs of commercial solar energy systems.

Users saved about \$30 million with the credit in 1988, according to Scott Sklar, executive director of the Solar Energy Industries Association, a trade group.

But neither House of the US Congress has written provisions to extend the solar tax credit,

which expires on Dec 31.

"The US solar industry can't hope to get on its feet if incentives are whittled away and allowed to expire," said Sklar.

"As time goes on, we're becoming more competitive," said Dick Blodden, marketing director for Sovonics Solar Systems, a unit of energy Conversion Devices Inc. of Troy, Michigan.

"Tax credits have certainly encouraged use of new power sources," he said. "Their demise will have a long-term effect on us and the industry."

US and foreign companies have been racing to cut the cost of using photovoltaic cells, battery-like devices that convert sunlight directly into electricity.

The average cost for producing electricity from photovoltaics is about 25 to 30 cents a kilowatt-hour, against five to 10 cents a kilowatt-hour for coal-produced electricity, according to the Investor Responsibility Research Centre, a private group.

"As the cost of photovoltaic declines, the presence of tax credits would accelerate pen-

etration of the (energy) market," said John Corsi, president of Amoco Corp's Solaris Corp subsidiary, a manufacturer of solar panels.

But with federal budgets tight, the Bush administration remains generally opposed to tax credits, and legislators are looking for ways to save money.

"The credits have helped promote the use of renewable energy and a lot of these companies are just now on the very edge of becoming viable," said an aide for Democratic Senator Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii, who was instrumental in creating the credit in 1978.

But he added: "The administration doesn't support any tax credit provisions as a matter of policy."

If the credits expire, US solar companies could be forced to cut prices to attract new customers. And their need for capital could lead to more acquisition by companies overseas, experts say.

"The US industry's inability to get capital will promote foreign expansion and acquisition

in this market," said Sklar, of the industry trade group. "We'll have solar energy in the States, but it will be a foreign-based industry," he said.

Analysts point to the West German firm Siemens AG, which recently bought the solar unit of Atlantic Richfield Co., as an example.

Because of lower oil prices and reduced investment, growth of renewable energy capacity in the United States is expected to slow in the 1990s.

About 5,000 megawatts of capacity are currently on line, but only 700 megawatts are projected by 1991, according to the Investor Responsibility Research Centre.

The drop in federal support programmes has been a critical factor, said Susan Williams, a senior analyst with the Washington-based centre. Federal research funding has fallen 80 per cent since peaking at over \$600 million in 1980.

"It's very ironic that we are poised for a decline as policy makers and the public are growing more environmentally conscious," Williams added.

Abu Dhabi loan for Egypt

CAIRO, Nov 21, (Kuna). Egypt and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development signed here today a loan agreement by which the fund extends a \$75 million soft loan to Cairo to contribute in the ambitious \$1 billion land reclamation project in Nubaria and Bustan areas.

The Abu Dhabi Fund is thus contributing around half the foreign currency needed for the project which amounts to \$160 million.

The loan stipulates repaying the sum over 25 years including eight years grace period and 2.5 per cent for affiliated services instead of interest.

The sum will be used in purchasing infrastructural needs, irrigation stations and advanced irrigation systems.

The fund's board chairman Nasser Al Nuveisi and Egyptian International Co-operation Undersecretary Hussein Rifat, on behalf of the minister, signed the agreement.

Nuveisi told a press conference that the fund finances projects accorded top priority by recipient nations and that it targets helping countries facing financial difficulties.

He pointed out that the fund had financed more than 100 ventures in 40 countries, 70 per cent of which were Arab countries, at a total sum of \$1.5 billion in the past few years.



Iqbal Khan presenting a ghazal. On the table: Ustad Khan and Zafar Iqbal



The Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait, Zahid Khan, thanking the organisers and the audience.



Bangash gives Khan a gift. (L to R) M. Azhar, Deen Bangash, Saleem Khan, Farooq Khan and Anwar Khan.

Pakistan Arts Circle greets Saleem Khan

LAST Friday the Pakistan Arts Circle held a function for a renowned Pakistani TV music director and ghazal singer, Saleem Khan, at Ramada Al Salam. It was presided by Zahid Saeed Khan, the ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait.

The function was beautifully organised by PAC and was of immense success. It lasted from 7 to 11 pm. In the function, Moin Khan, Bader Siddiqui and Shah Saani, all local artists, participated. Saleem Khan has a unique style of ghazal singing which he has adopted himself, in classical singing, he got training from Ustad Moubin Khan. For more than 3 years, Saleem Khan has worked in BBC TV

London and gained popularity, not in London but all main cities of England, like Birmingham, Glasgow, Bradford and most of the towns where music lovers of Asian popular varieties live.

As a composer, Saleem Khan has his own style which is most impressive. For the past 17 years Saleem Khan is associated with PTV as music director. PAC will sponsor him in early January and hopes that Khan will gain much more popularity which will place him among the best ghazal singer of the Indian sub-continent.

Saleem Khan, while in London, composed the

music of Dipti Nawal's first movie "Ek Baat Phir," which proved Khan's extraordinary talents. He also participated in a music competition in which more than 80 countries' singers participated. The programme was arranged in Albert Hall. Saleem Khan was selected as the best singer and was awarded a gold medal.

In PAC's programme Saleem Khan delighted the audience with his melodious voice. He sang Urdu ghazals, Sindhi and Pashto Geet and among all the best recited were varieties of ghazals.

At the end of the programme Zahid Saeed Khan thanked and appreciated the performance of the

singers, specially Saleem Khan and wished every success for PAC's future programme. Then the president of the PAC concluded the programme with a vote of thanks to the ambassador of Pakistan and other officials as well as distinguished guests Hasan Deen Bangash, Rafiq Mirza and all others, especially the members of the executive committee of the PAC whose efforts made the programme a grand success.

The delicious food was then served which the Ramada management prepared for the honourable guests.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

9.30 The opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
10.00 Around the World: cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Fi Muntasaf Al Lail: local serial (part II)
11.30 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
12.00 Circus
12.30 News Summary
12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING PERIOD

4.00 The opening and Holy Quran

4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Alice in Wonderland: cartoon serial final part
5.15 Football Lessons: Sports programme
5.45 Night Chemists: airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Al Islam Hadhara: religious programme (part 15)
7.00 Popular Arts: local programme, prepared and presented by Hmoud Al Baghli
7.45 Television Network: local programme, prepared and presented by Abdul Rahman Al Najar
8.30 Good Evening and

local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Tareq Min Al Sama: Arabic serial (part 16)
11.30 Kulo Fi Al Saleem: Arabic play, starring Abdulah Al Farhali, Hala Fakher, Inad Rashad and Sawwan Bader
1.25 News summary
1.20 The World Today via Satellite
1.50 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Volttron: a cartoon series for children
6.30 Danger Bay. The

Return of Sugar Ray. The Roberts try to stop the devastating poaching that threatens the bears in a Landsat Study area.
7.00 On the Wings of the Wind. "From the Red Sea to the Mediterranean." Our passage through the Red Sea is made difficult by the seagoing traffic to be found in one of the most heavily-travelled waterways in the world: The Suez Canal.
8.00 News in English
8.30 The Great Circuses of the World. A variety of acrobatic shows and wild animal taming attractions.

9.30 Wild Life on One. A look at birds and animals responses to environment and other local conditions.
10.00 Cine Club: Presented by Farouk Abdulaziz "The Asphalt Jungle" Starring: Sterling Hayden, Louis Calhern, Jean Hagen, Marilyn Monroe. An elderly crook comes out of prison and assembles a gang for one last robbery.
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'actualite

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Rashed Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber St
Ahlam Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St
Hawali and Nagra
Kuwait Pharmacy
Nagra - Qutaiba St
Salwa & Rumeidya
Al Samah Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St. Sal-
miya
Fahad & Ahmadi
Al Khaleel Pharmacy
Fahad - Complex Road
Jaleel Al Shiyookh
Salama Pharmacy
Main St - Block 2
Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Opp. Jahra Co-op. Society

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Shock Troop
Al Sahmiya
Moon Trap
Al Hamra
Ninja Warrior of Fire
Drive-In
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Janam Janam
Fahad Open-air
Insaf Ki Manzil
Al Fahad
Arabic film
Al Jahra
Caliber 357
Granada
Arabic film
Selahithat
Second Degree
Al Jleeb
Over Board
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film

PRAYERS

Fajr 4.55 am
Zuhr 11.34
Asr 2.31 pm
Maghreb 4.50
Isha 6.11

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Islamic Art
A SIX week - 12 lecture course on Islamic Art will be given in English at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah on Sunday and Tuesday mornings from 10.00 - 12.00 noon. October 29 through December 5, 1989.

An eight week - eight lecture course on Islamic Art will be given in Arabic at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah on Monday afternoons from 4.00 - 6.00 pm from October 30 through December 19, 1989.

To register for either of these courses please sign up at the Dar Al Athar during museum hours 8.30 am - 12.30 pm.

Watercolour Painting
LEARN watercolour painting with Patricia Mills. New 8 week course in Drawing & Painting for adults. For details tel: 5618847.

SOCIAL

Yuletide Fayre
Do not miss the Yuletide Fayre being organised by St Paul's Church, Ahmadi from 2 pm to 5 pm on the afternoon of Friday, 1st December at the British embassy compound. There will be stalls for Christmas gifts, handicrafts and books as well as for cakes and preserves. There will be entertainment, including Santa Claus, for the children. Refreshments will be available.

Pianist wanted
KUWAIT Little Theatre - Ahmadi urgently require a pianist to help with their pantomime rehearsals and performances. Anyone interested, please call S. Prescott on 3725960 after 3 pm.

Carnival Night
The long waited Carnival Night will be held for the first time in Kuwait with popular bands "Top Ranks" and "Perfect Strangers" vibrating up the Carnival Spirit to bring out their best music ever. So all you folks look ahead for more details through this column for the precise date in the month of February, 1990.

Kuwait Goans
DEC 15: Annual children's Xmas tree function will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Friday, December 15, '89 from 9.30am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises awaits for one and all. Top Ranks in attendance.

To avoid disappointment call for your early bookings on 2413348.

Children's competition at IAC
THE result of the qualifying round of the children's competition held in Indian Arts Circle were already announced on 17-11-1989. The results are displayed in all schools and Indian Arts Circle. The finals will take place on 30-11-89, 15-12-89, 27-12-89, 28-12-89 at Indian Arts Circle. For more information please contact on telephone nos. 3904817 or 5622559.

Jazz Night
NOV 29: In response to overwhelming demand, once again Phil Thomas and the "High Spirits" will be extending their "Jazzical" repertoire for your enjoyment. From 8pm to 12 midnight. Phone: 5640981.

Get together
DEC 22: Southerners welcome you once again to a family get-together at Le Mirage Hall at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel at 10 am.

December Delights
DEC 8: Expatriates Club announces its Yuletide gala-social for children and adults at the SAS 'Tent' Hotel from 0930 hours onwards. Gifts for all children, fancy dress, hamper prizes, lunch buffet, gifts, prizes and surprises from the sponsors and the club. Book early for table reservations. Wilson 3918938, Val 5614506 (after 4 pm) and Tony 5655056 (after 5 pm). Music by Stepping Stones.

Kuwait Cultural Centre
THE Kuwait Cultural Centre is opening a French Language course to be held on Saturdays and Mondays. For further detail please contact 5624393.

Exhibition
AN exhibition of superb replica of trees and plants which uniquely couple lifelike fabric foliage with natural trunks and branches. Select for more than 20 different varieties of plants and trees for the size space. On display at the lower lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel. Details at: 2407029.

British Council
85th birthday tribute to Graham Greene - The British Council is holding an 85th Birthday Tribute to Graham Greene with an exhibit of a set of poster about his life and works during the whole month of November. On 25 Nov and Sunday, 26th Nov., film adaptations of "Brighton Rock" and "The Human Factor" will be shown at the Gallery starting at 5.00 pm. Admission is free

but please book seats by calling 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

Hobby centre
New Courses in Jewellery making and design for adults. For children there is Pottery starting next month for 6 weeks. Tel: 5618847; 5317354.

Fiesta Extraganza
The Filipino Cultural Club, in its continuous effort to pursue its commitment to promote goodwill, offer wholesome entertainment, and carry out the club's objectives, will be staging Fiesta Extraganza '89 (An FCC Christmas Special) on 8th December 1989, a Friday, at the plush Hotel Meridien from 5 pm. This 'year-end affair' will be presented by the FCC as a special way of thanking the club's friends, supporters and well-wishers for their continuous support and patronage. As the year 1989 comes to a close, FCC looks forward to being with you for an enjoyable pre-Christmas get-together. Guests can look forward to another very entertaining evening - FCC style, with a sumptuous dinner and a special show for which the club has been widely reputed for. In addition, there will be a raffle draw featuring valuable prizes for many, as well as dancing for everyone's enjoyment.

Proceeds of the show will be used for the club's welfare projects and surely enough, your kind patronage will go a long way in helping the FCC with their commitment to the less privileged Filipinos in Kuwait.

A limited number of tickets are now available for KDS at the following outlets: Philippine Gift Shop at the Souk Al Kabir and Mabuhay Restaurant at the Carlton Hotel.

For more details, please contact Florence Delos Santos: Tel. 2439451 or 2436121; Tolis Matig-a Tel. 2417766; Jun Sta. Maria and other members of the club.

Silpasala
A FORUM for Malayalee writers and literary enthusiasts has been recently formed under the title, "SILPASALA." The forum is devoted to literary activities including discussions and study classes on Malayalam literature. It will also organise literary competitions and give "awards" for outstanding works, including poems, essays, short-stories and novels. The forum will make necessary arrangements publish the award-winning works.

A committee has been formed to conduct the forum. P.C.

Harish has been elected as the convenor of the forum. Executive members of the committee are Balan Nambiar, P.M. Sudhakaran, Kaipattoor Thankachan, and Lissy Kurakose. An advisory committee comprising K.R. Prasad, Hassan Thackody, Thomas Chitchezham has also been formed.

The forum anticipates sincere co-operation from the lovers of Malayalam literature. Those who are interested may please contact convenor, 'Silpasala', P.O. Box 909, pin code 13010 Safat - Kuwait.

Ecole Francaise
THE Ecole Francaise in Surrah is pleased to offer its students, for relaxation at the end of the first term, On November 22, at 11 - 12.30 a Fantastic Live Magic Show by Marco. The International Magic Prince.

May Day! May Day!
THE Kuwait International Hotel is now embarrased with the size of the turkey they have obtained for their Thanksgiving dinner on the 23rd of November. It has arrived safe, sound and healthy but the 67 pounder measuring about two feet square refuses to enter the hotel's oven... because the oven doors are only 16 inch x 18 inch. They have less than 72 hrs to go and the kitchen brigade is in a state of panic. A brainstorming session is on and a solution is yet to be made. A dinner for two on Thanksgiving Night is offered to anybody who can suggest some way of cooking the bird intact!

Ladies International League
UPCOMING EVENTS: Newcomers meeting: Monday 27th November '89, from 9.30 am to 12 noon in the Blue Room at the Sheraton Hotel. There will be a very small charge at the door. For further details please call Ann 5316905.

SECOND GENERAL MEETING: Our programme will be a winter party and mini bazaar, in Ballroom A at the Sheraton Hotel 7pm - 10pm on Tuesday 5th December '89. There will be a small charge at the door. All ladies are welcome. Please no children. Raffle, door prizes as well as lots of other prizes too. For further details please call Ann 5316905 or Dianne 5335598.

GCA nite
LOOK out for the notice for Eid celebrations organized by the GOA Cultural Association at the Ramada Al Salam.

Sharad Mela
AFTER successfully organising Deep-Dewali Satkaar is now going to organise Sharad Mela at Indian Arts Circle, Funaites on 1st December 1989, at 10.00 am. There will be food stalls of delicious cuisines along with fun and games stalls for children. The big attraction will be two Grand Rattle Draws with a Game of Bingo. For entry passes and further information contact, Brij Vallabh - 2510146, or V.K. Agarwal - 5728621.

Steps Ballet School
DEC 9: At the Kuwait English School at 6pm to 7.30pm, the Steps Ballet School will stage a display showing the Royal Academy of Dance's graded syllabus work, performed by the students. If you are interested at watching this display with your daughter, please ring 5386481 9-12 noon only and request seats. Seats are limited to guests, and early booking is advisable. There is no charge but guests must be booked in advance. Registration for January 1990 is now ongoing for girls aged 4-15 years.

General Body Meeting
WE are having our annual General Body Meeting on the morning of Friday, the 15th December. The meeting will be addressed by the Indian ambassador. The other main agenda of the meeting would be the lectures from two guest-speakers on the latest developments in the field of investments in India and the recent changes in law affecting NRIs. The guest speakers have been invited from India specially for this occasion. The meeting will be held in the Indian embassy auditorium and will be followed by lunch.

Fancy Dress Competition
THE joint annual family get together of incredible S.C. and Young Men Cultural Association on Dec 8th, starting at 9.30 am sharp has been shifted from the earlier venue to the Kuwait Regency Palace for the convenience of all members. Live music will be provided by Top Ranks, free gifts from Santa and also a fancy dress competition starting at 10.30 am sharp. Lots of prizes and surprises too! Members may collect their passes from the Managing Committee or contact Joe on 3981790 or Satu 3921712.

Musical Show
DEC 1: Musical Entertainment show at Doha Entertainment City in 'Starlight Theatre' with Live Rock 'n' Roll, Pop

and Reggie music from the most popular and dynamic beat groups of Kuwait.

Top Ranks and 'Next of Kin'.

The Highlights: Fancy dress competition, live stage performance of jive, break dance and solo dancing by Joe Misquita, Tony and their dancing group. Including many surprises.

For complete details Twinkle on: 4879455 ext. 298 (4 pm to 9 pm); Hilary, 2649442; John Philip, 2546890 (after 8 pm); Tom and Luisa, 2661370.

For tickets contact: Andrew at Dreamland Tailor's, 1st floor, above Raja Stores, opp. Canara Exchange.

NB: Transportation is available.

Star Nite
DEC 21: Star Nite Stepping Stones have stepped in and it's going to be a nite to celebrate Yuletide. Fun fare for children and variety programme for others starting from 5-8.30 pm and goes on from 9 pm until sumptuous buffet mid-night. A galore of prizes with Hamper lucky draws under 555 sponsorship invitations with Shop No. 34 ex New Super Market and contact Tel: 5331940, 2413706 (res).

Musical Nights with Adnan Butt
A variety of popular Indian and Pakistani songs, ghazals and gets to be presented in exclusive musical gatherings on

Hatid-Saya '89

THE Hatid-Saya '89 achieved its aim of bringing joy, laughter and entertainment to the Filipino community in Kuwait, when the performers gave an excellent display of showmanship and talent last Sunday at the Kuwait Regency Palace.

Hatid-Saya is a project of the Philippine government through the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and the Department of Labour, assisted this year, by the Land Bank of the Philippines and Duty-Free Philippines. In Kuwait, the project was spearheaded by the Philippine Embassy in co-ordination with the seven major Filipino organisations, namely: Kapilku, Flassik, PBAK, Spok, FCC, Filcheck and Kamay.

The affair was staged as an early Christmas gift to the toiling Filipino workers who help tremendously in contributing their share in upgrading and boosting the ailing Philippine economy through their regular remittances back home.

This year's Hatid-Saya troupe was originally scheduled to render only two shows but due to the long line of spectators who waited to witness the outstanding performers in action, a third show had to be added. Bert Marcelo himself, known as the Master Showman, ably led the performers to superb display of enviable talents. Together with the youthful-looking Nova Villa, who supported the gang with her own style of comedy, Bert delivered punch lines with verve and gusto.

Dulce mesmerized her audience with her prize-winning style of warbling and won acclaim when she sang all-time favourites such as "One Moment in Time" with great ease and sentimentality.

The stunning Cherrie Gil, a talented local film actress wowed the audience with her grace and lulling style of singing. Ricky Belmonte, with his dashing good looks captivated the crowd with his rendition of an Arab song complete with the gyrations. Without showing a hint of wear and strain, the refreshing Jeffrey Coronel enthralled the audience with his jazz numbers. The throng literally fell off their feet with the comic antics of the lovable duo Rocky and Choppy who turned the house upside down with gags and funny spics.

The finale was a stirring moment when the group serenaded the audience with Christmas carols. The spirit of the Yuletide season lingered in the atmosphere thus bringing out the nostalgic feelings and sense of longing for home.

Despite the group's hectic schedule and exhaustion from travelling and lack of proper sleep, the show was monumental proof of their compassion and dedication to the cause of brotherhood and concern for the hardworking Pinoy overseas.

The affair was not without its share of imperfections. Somehow something fizzled which left a lot of people aching their misgivings. Nonetheless, the spectators proved to be disciplined and forbearing and the organisers wish to felicitate the sponsors, patrons and the ever-supportive Filipino community in Kuwait for successfully staging the show.

Undertakings such as the Hatid-Saya can only truly serve its purpose with equal dedication and support of the government agencies involved, and sincere participation of the entertainers plus the plausible inclusion of each of the Filipino workers in the concerted efforts in uniting our countrymen into a strong solidarity.

Bojo B. Hamdan, Kamay. Photos by Romeo "Boyong" Mangumay, Kamay.



Actress Cherrie Gil



Singer Dulce



The performers being congratulated by Dr. Mauryag Tamano, the Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait.

four consecutive Thursdays starting from November 23, 1989 at various locations in Kuwait. For details contact 3919720, 3610088 and 4743955.

Filipino Choral Group
DEC 16: The spirit of Christmas is just around the corner and the Filipino Choral Group in its traditional bid to bring cheers, love and goodwill to all Christians in Kuwait will present a 30-minute repertoire of English and Filipino Christmas carols on December 16, 5 pm at the Holy Family Cathedral.

This prelude to the first day of Misa de Gallo is organised by Ed Orsa and to be conducted by Hilda Navarro-both working as medical technologists in Farwaniya Hospital.

Turkish Dinner
TURKISH community in co-operation with Turkish embassy organised an evening dinner on Thursday 23rd of November, 8.00 pm, in Al Ramada Hotel.

All Turkish nationals are invited for the occasion. For further information contact Dr. Bakl Koyunlu Tel: 4845882.

German Speaking Cultural Association
WE want to inform all our German speaking society and their friends about two forth coming events. The first will be the WINTER GALA at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel in the Grand Ballroom on Wednesday November 29 at 8.00 pm. It

will include an exquisite buffet and valuable prizes. Tickets are available at the German and Austrian embassies, the German school, the German library, and on the 29th from the Sheraton from 7 pm onwards.

The second event will be our traditional BAZAAR for all with beautiful handicrafts. This will be on November 30 at 5 pm in the Kuwait International Hotel's Old Failaka Room.

Daniella Children's Party
ALL Danes in Kuwait are invited for the annual children's party "Juletrae" to be held at the Gazette Club on Friday December 15 at 3 pm. Tickets to be purchased from Inge on 3727888 ext 207 or Winnie on 5733382 before December 10.

SPORTS

Open Badminton Tournament
IT is with great pleasure that we once again give this open invitation to all badminton players in Kuwait to take part in the annual Open Badminton Tournament.

The tournament will be held between Saturday, November 25th and Thursday November 30th, 1989 at the KOC Sports Centre Ahmadi.

Timings for each day's play will be as follows:
Saturday 25th, November through Wednesday 29th November (1900 hrs to 2200 hrs.)

Blue-blooded baroness' oddball career

Izzy's ritzy show

A FORMER schoolmate of the Princess of Wales is shocking high society to the core with her "Rock 'n' Raunch" act in a Soho drag club.

Blue-blooded Baroness Isabelle van Redwyck, known as Izzy, is the only genuine female to strut her stuff at the infamous Madame Jo-Jo's nightclub. For £200 a week, this descendant of William of Orange belts out rock numbers in her classically trained voice, while sequined drag queens watch adoringly from the wings.

Izzy's Sloane Ranger friends have learned to appreciate her act, after initial reservations, and she is unrepentant about her choice of career. "People might be shocked when they find out about my job, but I love it," she said. "I just tell them not to be snobby."

The rebellious 25-year-old positively thrives on her oddball career. Even the cosmopolitan customers of Madame Jo-Jo's don't know what to make of her.

Izzy confessed with a mischievous smile: "What they see tells them I'm a woman, but, because it's a drag show and the guys look so convincing, you hear the punters whispering 'Is she or isn't she?'"

"I just yell out: 'yes I am!', which confuses them even more!"

Izzy is not stranger to controversy. The 5ft 2in mini-skirted dynamo hit the headlines three years ago when she launched herself as a singer with her group The Sweatbands.

Cyrrating bra-less in a skimpy outfit at London's Hammersmith Palais, she raised aristocratic eyebrows and temperatures which haven't descended yet.

"I'm not exactly your average Baroness," she admitted. "I've always been a rebel."

She was expelled from the prestigious West Heath school at Sevenoaks, Kent, where she was two forms below the Princess of Wales, for being too hot for the teachers to handle.

Her antics include nude swimming at midnight, setting off the fire alarms and switching on a high-pitched "rape alarm" in her music class.

And at an age when most well-bred young ladies sport sensible shoes and pigtail, she was parading in high stiletto heels and leather mini-skirt.

Izzy fronted a band called Fluffy Blonde at West Heath, where she once outraged school staff by flinging fake blood over her audience at a concert.

Princess Diana was not in Izzy's rebellious league, but she was not a Goody Two-shoes either. Izzy remembers her joining in with pillow fights, scoffing midnight feasts and chatting after lights-out.

She recalled: "Diana was a very kind and a very nice person, but we were all naughty and she was no exception."

Like the Princess, Izzy has an impeccable pedigree. She is descended from King William of Orange and her family boasts a 14th Century title bestowed by Napoleon. Her parents are now divorced.

Her shipping magnate father Baron Frans Randwyck lives in Rome, while her mother Johanna is settled in Kent.

Izzy's mother is one of her greatest fans and loves her stage act. Her father hasn't seen her perform but sends her his blessings from abroad.



Baroness Isabelle van Redwyck, alias Izzy, in a party mood.

Izzy is confident of their support. "My parents aren't surprised at my job eccentricity runs in my family. They are both happy to let me do what I want to so long as I am happy."

But life for Izzy has not been all champagne and caviar. Although she did a series of "typically Sloane" jobs after leaving school, such as being a secretary and working for a posh estate agency, she has supported herself since she was 18.

"I was a debutante and came out in 1981. That was fun high living and eligible young men desperate for a dance. I went to at least 30 balls, wore £2,000 dresses and drank enough champagne to sink a ship. But finally I was bored to death. I wanted a career."

So while by day she donned the Sloane uniform of pearls, pullover, flat shoes and straight skirt for her job as a rental negotiator, in the evenings she headed off for singing lessons, rehearsals and dance-drama classes.

Her dedication has reaped rewards. She appeared in the film Death Star Twilight of The Gods as a Nordic inn-keeper's daughter and she has plans to pursue other film parts.

Are you a bore or jolly japer

Find out whether your company stimulates or sends to sleep

DO people get a special look in their eyes when they talk to you? It could, of course, be smouldering passion bursting to the surface.

On the other hand, they may have chatted to you before and are already anticipating a large slice of droning monotony.

To find out whether your company stimulates or sends to sleep, tackle the following question.

1. You start telling a story when expressions tell you those present have heard it before. Do you:
 - a) brazen it out and finish the story regardless?
 - b) find such a situation unimaginable?
 - c) finish it off differently — however ridiculous it sounds?
 - d) laugh and make a joke about the fact they've heard it?

Dinner

2. You're planning a romantic dinner for two. What is the most important ingredient?
 - a) Good food
 - b) Good music
 - c) Plenty to drink
 - d) Doing something unexpected, like eating Japanese-style off the floor

3. What is your definition of a bore?
 - a) Someone who talks too much
 - b) Someone who doesn't listen
 - c) Someone who never does anything different
 - d) Someone who is always doing something different

4. How many of the following can you do? Count the number of yeses to score.
 - a) Drive
 - b) Speak a foreign language
 - c) Do a craft like knitting, painting or carpentry
 - d) Ski
 - e) Travel abroad on your own
 - f) Cook a foreign meal
 - g) Read a book (for pleasure)
 - h) See a film or play on your own
 - i) Wear something outrageous

5. If you had to pick one of the following as a source of pride, which would it be?
 - a) Knowing a joke for every occasion
 - b) Being able to speak non-stop for three minutes on any given subject
 - c) Being able to be quiet in any given situation for more than three minutes
 - d) Being able to hold your breath underwater

Nightwear

6. What do you wear in bed? For the ladies:
 - a) Nothing
 - b) Negligee
 - c) Pyjamas
 - d) Night Shirt
 For the gents:
 - a) Pyjamas
 - b) Nothing
 - c) Pyjama bottoms
 - d) Underpants

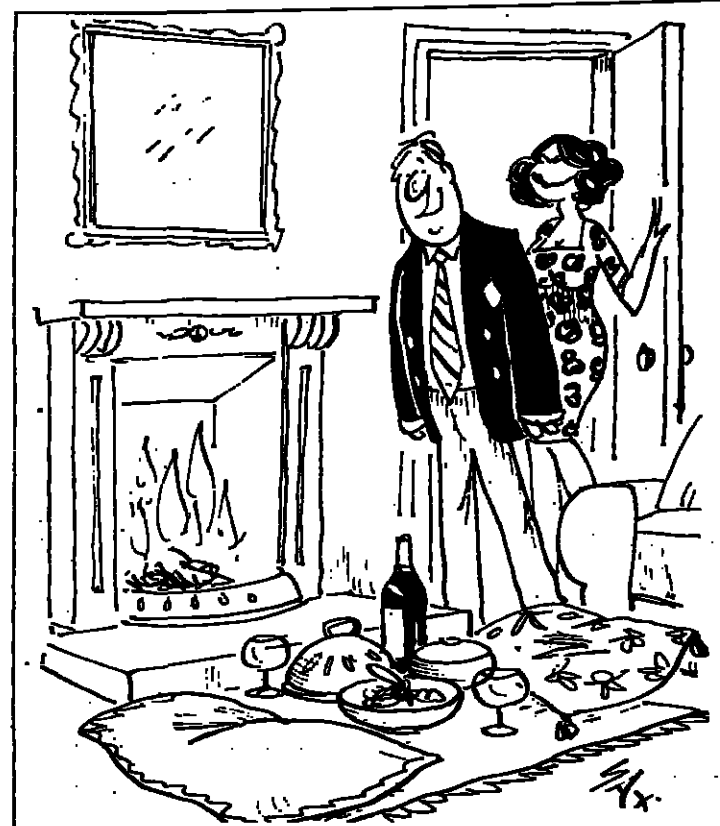
8. Your partner has won the pools and your treat is a passionate weekend. Which would you choose?
 - a) Tangier with belly dancers and a satin-bedecked boudoir
 - b) A five star hotel in Paris with champagne, caviar and capers in a king-sized bed
 - c) A rustic away-from-it-all cottage with farmhouse fare, and frolicking by the fireside.
 - d) The elegant Orient Express.

Attract

9. It's party time and someone attracts your eye? Do you:
 - a) casually meander across with two full glasses?
 - b) wait to see if they're attached?
 - c) wangle an introduction?
 - d) subtly find out a bit about them and then make your opening gambit?

10. A foreign friend spends the weekend with you. Would you arrange:
 - a) trips round all the local pubs and clubs?
 - b) a play or restaurant every night?
 - c) parties with all your friends so they can meet everyone?
 - d) leave it to them to decide what they want to do?

11. A friend is depressed because their lover has just left them. Do you:
 - a) take them out to drown their sorrows?
 - b) listen while they pour their heart out?
 - c) tell them how you coped (whether you did or not)?
 - d) tell them the lost partner isn't worth their tears?



12. If you find yourself at a loose end, how would you pass the time?
 - a) Watch television
 - b) Catch up on phone calls or letters
 - c) Read a book
 - d) Eat

13. You win a complete outfit of your choice. Which of the following would you pick?
 - a) Ballgown
 - b) A tracksuit
 - c) A tailored skirt and shirt
 - d) Lacy lingerie and naughty negligee

- For the gents:
 - a) Sports jacket and tailored trousers
 - b) Cords and jumper
 - c) Three-piece suit
 - d) Sportswear

Phone

14. Someone phones you and goes on and on. How would you get them off the line?
 - a) Launch into a detailed account of the dream you had the night before
 - b) Say there's someone at the door
 - c) Sit it out — they're obviously lonely
 - d) Say your dinner's ready

15. Think of someone you spoke to yesterday or the day before. What do you remember most clearly about them?
 - a) Their eyes
 - b) Their hair
 - c) Their clothes
 - d) Their hands

- Scoring:
 - a) 1 b) 0 c) 2 d) 3

2. a) 0 b) 1 c) 2 d) 3
3. a) 0 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4
4. 0-2 yeses) 0 3-5 yeses) 1 6-8 yeses) 2 more than 8) 3
5. a) 2 b) 0 c) 3 d) 1
6. Ladies a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 0 Gents a) 1 b) 3 c) 2 d) 1
7. 0-2 yeses) 0 3-4 yeses) 1 5 or 6 yeses) 2 7 or 8 yeses) 3
8. a) 3 b) 0 c) 2 d) 1
9. a) 3 b) 0 c) 3 d) 2
10. a) 0 b) 1 c) 3 d) 2
11. a) 3 b) 2 c) 1 d) 0
12. a) 1 b) 3 c) 2 d) 0
13. Ladies a) 0 b) 2 c) 1 d) 3 Gents a) 0 b) 3 c) 2 d) 1
14. a) 3 b) 1 c) 2 d) 0
15. a) 2 b) 3 c) 0 d) 1

35-45 Jolly japer

Yes, you're adventurous and full of life. You're probably very good at telling amusing anecdotes and reviving flagging parties. You may not be an obvious extrovert but you're fun and will try virtually anything — if you haven't already tried it. A word of warning though, there's nothing more boring than someone who's been everywhere and done everything.

23-34: Lovely listener

Very good. You're interested in other people and are a very good listener — one of the best safeguards against being a bore. You're observant so you have plenty of interesting things that you've noticed (or overheard) to contribute to any conversation. You may well wish you were slightly more adventurous — dare to be different.

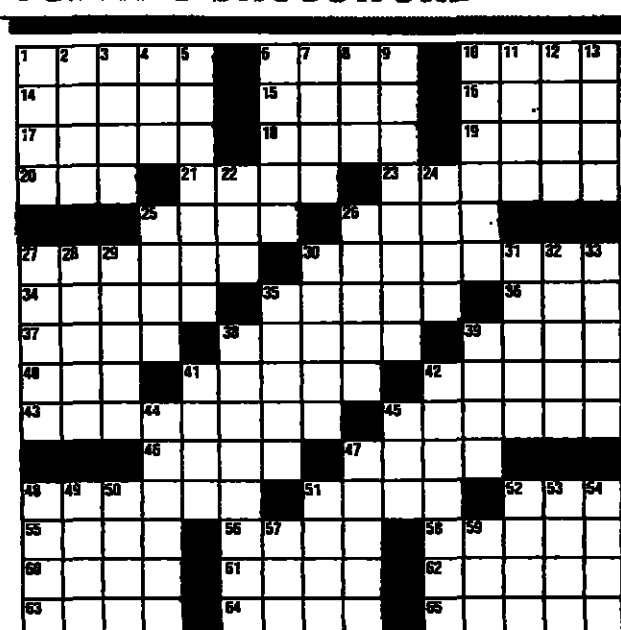
11-22: Border bore

Not bad, but you sometimes border on the boring. Loosen up a bit and stop being so self-conscious. Not everyone is looking at you and once you relax and let go you have a lot of interesting things to say. You'd be surprised at how many people feel the same way.

0-10: Sad sack

Watch out. Perhaps it's nerves, but you're so wrapped up in yourself you haven't got time to listen to anyone else. Ever find yourself interrupting people or busy thinking up a reply? Relax and listen more — there are a lot of interesting things going on and you're missing out.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 West Coast capital
 - 6 Part of QED
 - 10 Rock star — Ant
 - 14 Oily
 - 15 Command to huskies
 - 16 Year in Claudius I's reign
 - 17 Belle or Bart
 - 18 Arrow poison
 - 19 Ancient Persian
 - 20 Junior
 - 21 Der — Adensur
 - 23 Wormwood, for short
 - 25 Dollar bills
 - 26 Hindu titles
 - 27 "Simon & Simon" co-star
 - 30 Prickly plants
 - 34 — Fisher Hall: NYC
 - 35 Sick: Ger.
 - 36 Actress Lupino
 - 37 Actress Naldi
 - 38 Attentive, of old
 - 39 Drag along
 - 40 — mode
 - 41 Divide into two equal parts
 - 42 A canonical hour
 - 43 Tom Selleck role
 - 45 Omits
 - 46 — bitzy
 - 47 Moving machinery pieces
 - 48 Stop
 - 51 Activist
 - 52 NCO
 - 55 Drudge
 - 56 Actor Jack
 - 58 Organic
- DOWN
- 1 Trump, in Scotland
 - 2 Choir member
 - 3 Slender
 - 4 Goddess of healing
 - 5 See 27 Across
 - 6 Gives off
 - 7 Finnish poem
 - 8 Peer Gynt's mother
 - 9 On — (sailing)
 - 10 Nearly
 - 11 Japanese legislature
 - 12 Verdi opus
 - 13 Manner
 - 22 Celtic
 - 24 Venture
 - 25 Gumbo
 - 26 Ghost
 - 27 JFK
 - 28 Waited
 - 29 Label again
 - 30 Fountain
 - 31 Deceivers
 - 32 Infer
 - 33 Soupy —
 - 35 Scottish water spirit
 - 38 Furry pets
 - 39 Dame Myra
 - 41 Shacks
 - 42 Sidekick of 27 Across
 - 5 Down
 - 44 Black enamel-like alloy
 - 45 West of fame
 - 47 Halley's —
 - 48 So be it!
 - 49 Newspaper section, for short
 - 50 Iranian coin
 - 51 Information
 - 52 — the Man
 - 53 Critic Siskel
 - 54 Three, in Toledo
 - 57 Sass
 - 59 Band in ship's timber

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

LADIES STRIP LOCI
ARAB ORANGE ELAN
SIMONBOCCANERGRA
TANGIBLE ORALS
DIELOATS
PASSED KALT BAT
RAMP RHEO OLE
ARIADNEAUFNAXOS
DOT UCLA DIENT
ONE BALL SPORES
IDIAS SOL
BORN DIRECTOR
TROUBLEINTAHITI
USSR LANCE UNIT
SKYE BREED MAICE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A43 ♥ KQJ3 ♦ J73 ♣ J92
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 97652 ♥ J ♦ 63 ♣ 96542
Partner opens the bidding in first seat with one club. What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 97652 ♥ J ♦ 63 ♣ 96542
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass Pass 1 ♥
2 ♦ 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J9652 ♥ Q83 ♦ 7 ♣ K762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♦ ?
What action do you take?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AKJ105 ♥ J95 ♦ 7 ♣ KJ83
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♦ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Void ♥ 7 ♦ KQJ10654 ♠ A10952
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass ?
What is your opening bid?

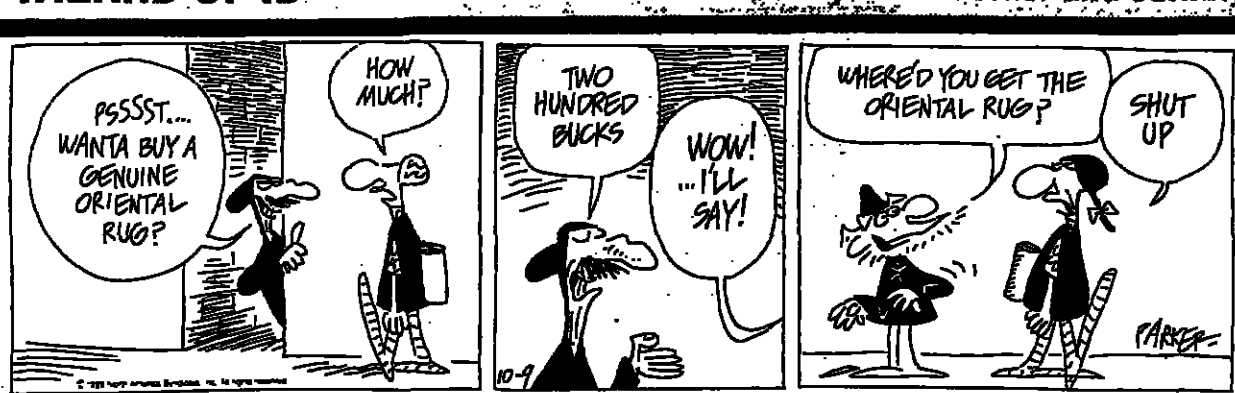


"Can't you go faster?"



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Grant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries (March 20 - April 18)</p> <p>You should show just a little more goodwill towards others. Do not do more than one thing at a time. You are more liable to fall for sales talk. Be polite.</p>	<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</p> <p>You will tend to tire rather easily so try to conserve your energies. Beware of falling for sales talk. Your lucky numbers are 18 and 27. Do not seek to do too much all at once. Be sincere.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)</p> <p>You will be torn between the devil and the deep blue sea. Make sure you do not take on any commitments you might be unable to meet. Make yourself a little more useful. Be reliable.</p>	<p>Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19</p> <p>You are liable to be kept waiting and should make allowances. Seek not to take without giving. Avoid living too much in the past but do not altogether ignore it. Be relevant.</p>
<p>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</p> <p>The prospects are good only you must not wait too long. A good opportunity could well not be recognised as such until too late. You will be more forgetful. So do make notes. Be less obsequious.</p>	<p>Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)</p> <p>You should not try to cut too many corners. And you should avoid getting yourself bogged down in detail. Look ahead of you not behind you except in a driver's mirror. Be firm.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)</p> <p>You will be more sure of yourself but must avoid being reckless. You should seek to abandon some preconceptions. Only if you think you too old to learn. Be correct.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>You will get on well with those in your immediate surroundings. A practical matter will be resolved with relative ease. You should not take any risks with your health. Be considerate.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 20 - June 20)</p> <p>You should stick to your principles. You will discover something that will be very useful to you. Avoid succumbing to negative considerations. Be pertinent.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)</p> <p>You are more liable to get into an argument and should try avoid doing so. Make sure your partner is able to rely on you. Do not mistake what is not for what is important. Be sensible.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)</p> <p>Do not think that life is all work and no play but avoid being too frivolous either. Try not to come into conflict with a determined person. Make sure you are not late for an appointment. Be hopeful.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)</p> <p>You should avoid thinking negatively. Do not count your chickens before they are hatched. Leave yourself with a small reserve of cash for a rainy day. Be polite.</p>

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SPORTS

European
golf stars
quit US
PGA Tour

PONTE VEDRA, Florida, Nov. 21. (Reuters): Masters golf champions Nick Faldo of Britain and Bernhard Langer of West Germany have resigned their US Tour memberships because the American Tour rejected a plan to ease playing requirements for foreigners.

A spokeswoman for the PGA Tour confirmed the resignations yesterday of Faldo and Langer but refused to give any more details.

Both Faldo, who won the Masters crown this year, and Langer, the 1985 winner, said they would quit the US circuit after the PGA Tour last month rejected a plan to reduce the number of event's foreigners must play each season from 15 to 12.

Sandy Lyle, a Briton who won the masters in 1988, was also reported considering quitting the US circuit.

Following the rejection of the proposal, Faldo said, "it's obviously not good news but it's not surprising. We knew we were beating our heads against the wall."

Faldo played 16 tournaments in the United States this year, but would like to play more in Europe and less in the United States in 1990.

"The proposal met with hostility from the majority of US players," PGA commissioner Deane Beman said following the rejection of the proposal to reduce the requirements.

Faldo and Langer will still be able to compete in major tournaments — the Masters, the US Open, the PGA championship, and the World Series of Golf — as well as five lesser events without holding a PGA card.

"But the restriction, Faldo said earlier, "increases the burden" on foreign players to properly prepare for major championships in the US.

Seve Ballesteros, the Spaniard who has been one of the world's leading players for the past decade, lost his PGA membership in 1986 over a similar dispute and Ian Woosman of Wales notified the PGA earlier he would not accept membership in 1990.

Redskins beaten 14-10

Broncos avenge defeat

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21. (AP): Gary Kubiak, subbing for an ailing John Elway, threw two short first-half touchdown passes as the Denver Broncos beat the Washington Redskins 14-10, all but sewing up the AFC West title.

Safety Dennis Smith also played a key role in last night's game, twice stripping the ball from Jamie Morris, the first time setting up a Denver touchdown, the second time stopping a

Washington threat at the Broncos' 10.

Kubiak completed just 13 of 27 passes for 123 yards, but the completions include a 1-yard touchdown pass to Melvin Bratton in the first quarter and a 5-yarder to Ricky Nattiel in the second. The defense took over as temperatures dropped and high winds swirled around RFK stadium.

Bobby Humphrey carried 31 times for 110 yards for Denver,

which at 9-2 is four games ahead in the division with five games left as they seek their third title in four years. Washington dropped to 5-6, in deep trouble in their quest for an NFC wild-card berth.

It was the first game between the two since the January 1988 Super Bowl, won 42-10 by Washington. But injuries and attrition had taken a toll on both teams. Just 10 players on each team who started that game started last night.

One of the non-starters was Elway, who came down with a stomach virus in late afternoon that left him in the locker room for the entire game.

Doug Williams, the Washington quarterback who was the MVP in the Super Bowl, also was on the bench after starting two games on his return from back surgery. Washington was also playing for the first time without defensive end Dexter Manley, suspended for life last week for a third substance abuse infraction and his replacement, Markus Koch, injured a knee in the third quarter.

It took just 13 yards of offense to produce two touchdowns, one for each team.

On Denver's first possession, Fred Stokes sacked Kubiak, stripping the ball and recovering on the Broncos' 8. Then Morris dashed up the middle for the score on the first play.

The Broncos reciprocated the first time Washington got the ball when Smith stripped the ball

from Morris. Tyrone Braxton picked it up and returned it 35 yards to the Redskins' 5. After Humphrey carried to the 1, Kubiak rolled out and hit Bratton, who just made it over the end line for the score, losing the ball on the way down.

Phoenix Cardinals head coach Gene Stallings was fired yesterday, and the National Football League team announced that one of its assistants, Hank Kuhlmann, would temporarily take his place.

Standings

American Conference

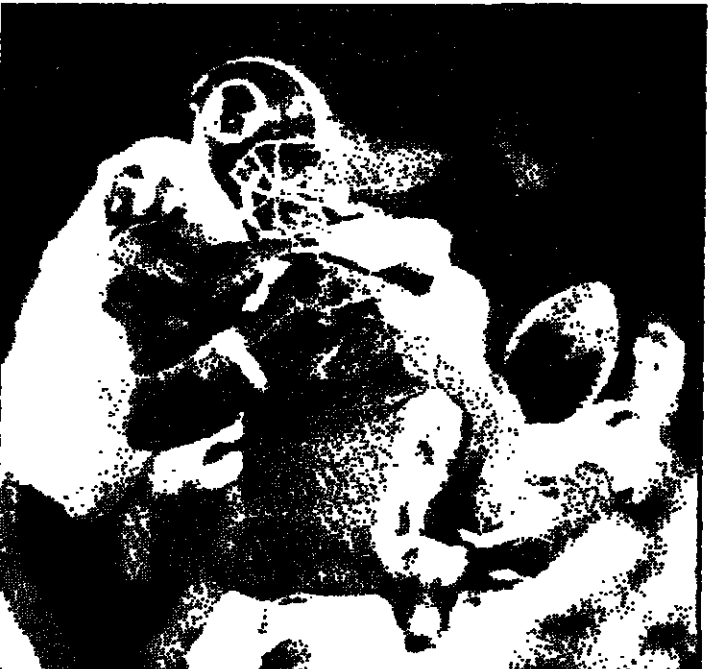
	W	L	T	Pct.	PP	PA
Buffalo	7	4	0	.636	303	250
Miami	7	4	0	.636	228	240
Indianapolis	5	6	0	.455	201	202
New England	4	7	0	.364	214	268
N.Y. Jets	2	9	0	.182	192	299

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct.	PP	PA
Cleveland	7	3	1	.682	260	160
Houston	7	4	0	.636	295	360
Cincinnati	6	5	1	.545	271	201
Pittsburgh	5	6	0	.455	143	237
Denver	9	2	0	.818	248	163
L.A. Raiders	4	6	1	.409	197	218
Kansas City	4	7	0	.364	183	305
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	163	207
Seattle	2	9	0	.182	187	292

	W	L	T	Pct.	PP	PA
N.Y. Giants	9	2	0	.818	244	170
Philadelphia	7	4	0	.636	220	203
Phoenix	5	6	0	.455	207	250
Washington	5	6	0	.455	233	333
Dallas	1	10	0	.091	153	276

	W	L	T	Pct.	PP	PA
Minnesota	7	4	0	.636	216	178
Chicago	6	5	0	.545	283	219
Green Bay	6	5	0	.545	262	262
Tampa Bay	4	7	0	.364	244	305
Detroit	2	9	0	.182	187	292
San Francisco	9	2	0	.818	308	182
L.A. Rams	7	4	0	.636	282	232
New Orleans	6	5	0	.545	262	215
Atlanta	3	8	0	.273	191	282



Broncos' Gary Kubiak (No. 8) is sacked by Redskins' Fred Stokes. (Reuters wirephoto)

Taylor KO's 'Rocky' Balboa

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 21. (AP): The upset dreams of Jaime "Rocky" Balboa came to a crashing halt when Philadelphia's Meldrick Taylor staggered him with a left hook midway through the fifth round last night.

Taylor followed it up with another left moments later, and referee Frank Capucino stopped the scheduled 10-round junior welterweight non-title bout at the Philadelphia Civic Centre in the fifth round.

The unbeaten IBF junior welterweight champ Taylor, who will fight WBC welterweight king Julio Cesar Chavez in March, raised his record to 23-0-1. He thought it ironic to beat a man whose namesake has been legendary in this city.

"I think it's kind of sassy for Rocky Balboa to come to Philadelphia and challenge me," said Taylor, who dominated the fight from the outset. "But it was good for the venue and good for the gate."

"I thought my performance was good. I wasn't taking the guy for granted. I wanted to get a good workout, slip some punches and counter. I knew it was only a matter of time until I put some combinations together."

When Taylor connected, not even Adrian or Mickey the trainer could save Balboa, who says that he was known as Rocky before anyone ever heard of Sylvester Stallone.

"A long time ago when I'd get together with my

friends and fight they said I hit real hard," said Balboa, 27, a native of Mexico now living in San Antonio, Texas. "They started calling me Rocky. This was before the movie."

"I have no complaints about the referee stopping the fight. Meldrick hit me with some solid shots. He deserves to be the world champ and has the tools to face Chavez."

"Once I got the guy I knew I should have the killer instinct to take him out," said the former Olympic gold medalist Taylor, fighting in his hometown for the first time since turning pro. "I knew he was hurt. I saw that look in his eyes."

"Now I want to stay busy as much as possible before I fight Chavez."

AL honours Yount

NEW YORK, Nov. 21. (AP): Robin Yount, the Major League hit leader of the 1980s, was named American League Most Valuable Player (MVP) for the second time this decade yesterday, winning in a year when there was no clear-cut choice.

Yount won in 1982 as a shortstop and this season as a centre fielder for the Milwaukee Brewers. He joined Stan Musial and Hank Greenberg as the only players to be MVPs at two different positions and became the first AL winner to play on a team without a winning record.

Yount batted .318 hit 21 homers and drove in 103 runs as Milwaukee went 81-81. He received eight first-place votes for a total of 256 points, and was the only player named on all 28 ballots by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Texas' Ruben Sierra, who batted .306 with 29 home runs and a League-leading 119 RBIs, was second with six first-place votes and a total of 228 points. Sierra, whose team finished fourth — as did Milwaukee — also led the League with a .543 slugging percentage, 78 extra-base hits and 344 total bases.

Magic Flute captures Asterix Cup

THE Kuwait Offshore Sailing Association staged WS3, the third race of its Winter Series on Friday. Magic Flute, which has been improving with each race, finally broke through with an outstanding performance to win the race and the Asterix Cup.

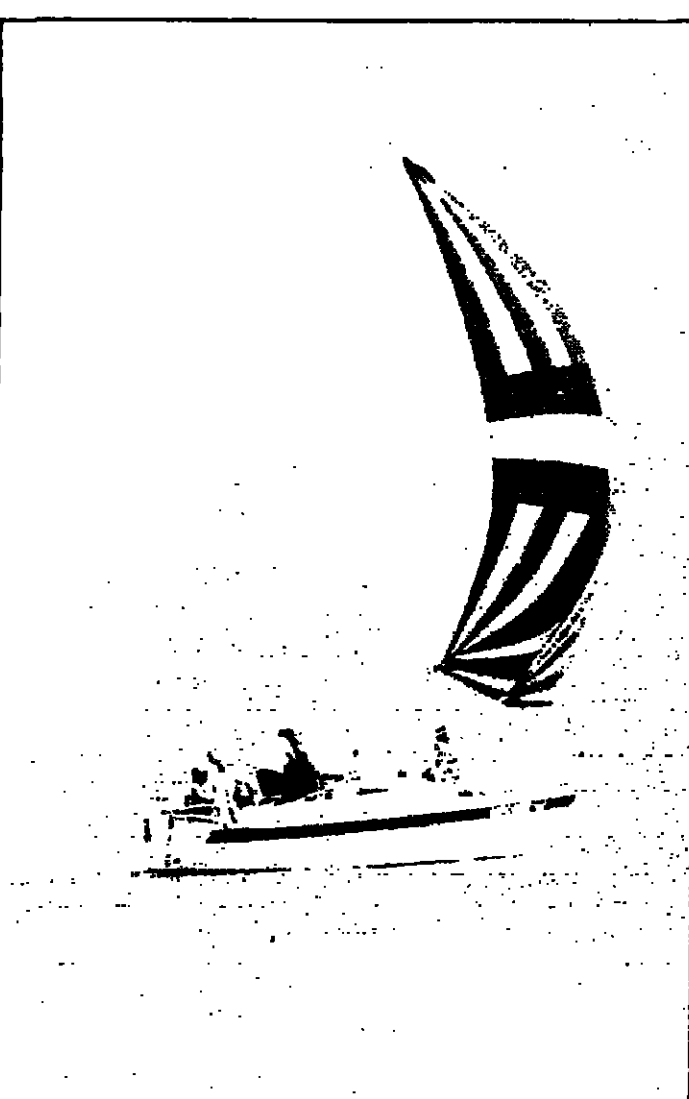
The race was scheduled as a 4 leg mid-distance 30 mile event. The Race Committee was disappointed to see that only five yachts entered the event. Why Not, Danat, Topaz, Whispering and Lemons were unable to participate.

As has been the case for the past month, winter season conditions produced ideal 12 knot north westerly breezes. However, seas were extremely choppy as a result of the big winds that swept through Kuwait in the days before the race. Every boat knew they were in for a tough day's sailing as crews donned their wet weather gear for the first time this season.

The race start was fiercely contested between Magic Flute, Red Viking and Shamal. Thirty seconds before the start gun Magic Flute tacked onto starboard and immediately forced the windward Red Viking to keep clear. Shamal which was to windward and astern of Red Viking miraculously missed hitting the ODM mark by bearing away suddenly.

All boats elected to maintain their starboard tack on the beat to the South Cardinal windward mark. After 15 minutes it became necessary to tack due to decreasing water depths. Magic Flute was first to go about and passed just astern of Gambit on her way offshore.

Gambit tacked onto port and just cleared Red Viking in a very close port/starboard encounter. The heavy seas were difficult to deal with and required intense concentration by helmsmen as they negotiated each wave crest. Magic Flute, which had



Magic Flute: sailed an excellent race

decided to tack back onto starboard, passed well to astern of Gambit. Red Viking had lost ground to Gambit but held a narrow lead over Magic Flute.

The former yacht was performing very well considering that she was sailing with only a number two genoa; her number one

leeward) and gave the Gambit crew the shock of their lives; two minute lead had been squandered.

With the windward mark now clearly visible on the horizon, Gambit went after Magic Flute but made no impression. Magic Flute pointed higher and increased her lead.

After 90 minute hard beating to windward, Magic Flute rounded South Cardinal two minutes ahead of Gambit which in turn was six minutes in front of Red Viking. Shamal was a further three minutes behind. Good Company had performed very well and her new owners took her around the mark only three minutes behind Shamal.

The second leg was a broad reach (120 degrees off the wind) against the flood tide to West Cardinal. Magic Flute's crew struggled to hoist their spinnaker in reasonable time. In contrast, the Gambit team had no trouble in getting their kite to fly as they rounded the mark. As a result, Gambit soon got her nose in front and began to build a lead.

After three hours sailing the fleet converged on West Cardinal and bore away about 30 degrees for the seven mile run to Mastas. Gambit was nine minutes ahead of Magic Flute which was a minute or so ahead of Red Viking.

The West Cardinal mark was not incidentally free however, as far as Magic Flute and Red Viking were concerned. The former boat blew out her spinnaker and lost time before a replacement was hoisted. Red Viking mistook West Cardinal for Mastas and sailed off back towards Bell Buoy; she subsequently retired from the race.

The run to Mastas was not much fun for helmsmen; sailing dead downwind with breaking seas is very demanding. However, all yachts handled the conditions admirably and managed to keep spinnakers and

mainsails in the right places! As Gambit approached Mastas her crew hoisted her genoa, tripped her spinnaker and gybed for the mark. With having completed just under five hours sailing, she was 15 minutes ahead of Magic Flute.

Shamal enjoyed a good leg and had closed the gap on Magic Flute appreciably while the Good Company crew decided to put some excitement into their day by raising their spinnaker.

The final leg was just off a beat to the Communications Tower-Bell Buoy finish line. Seas were particularly vicious near Mastas and meant that the fleet had to tough it out to the bitter end.

Gambit crossed the finish line 16 minutes ahead of Magic Flute but this margin proved to be inadequate after handicap correction. Magic Flute was declared the winner of WS3 and the Asterix Cup by a margin of three minutes after seven hours racing.

It was particularly pleasing to see that Magic Flute's owner insisted that she race even though he was out of the country. The Race Committee would dearly love to see this type of attitude prevalent amongst the entire fleet.

Handicap corrected results of WS3: Class 1: 1st Gambit, 2nd Shamal; Class 2: 1st Magic Flute, 2nd Good Company; Overall: 1st Magic Flute, 2nd Gambit, 3rd Shamal.

There are four remaining races in the Winter Series. Progressive scores after races WS1, WS2 and WS3 for all declared entries: Gambit 3 pts; Magic Flute 11 pts; Shamal 21.4 pts; Red Viking 28 pts; Danat 34.4 pts; Good Company 38 pts; Why Not 38.7 pts; Whispering 44 pts; Topaz 44 pts; Lemons 51 pts.

The next race WS4 is a Long Distance race (40-50 miles) will be staged on Friday, November 24. Briefing will be at 7 am at the Shaab Marina.

SQUASH

Knee injury stops Zarak in Stuttgart

STUTTGART, West Germany, Nov. 21. (Reuters): A badly twisted knee forced Pakistan's Zarak Jahan Khan to retire during his first-round match against Englishman Bryan Beeson in the Stuttgart Open squash tournament yesterday.

The injury meant Zarak, ranked ninth in the world, was unable to avenge a defeat by Beeson in the first round of the world open in Kuala Lumpur last month.

The Pakistani retired when leading 15-10 15-9 5-3 and may be forced to withdraw from the Dutch Open starting in The Hague on Saturday.

Australian Chris Robertson, the world number five, had to survive a stirring comeback before winning 15-11 15-9 9-15 13-15 15-9 against compatriot Mark Robbards.

Former world champion Ross Norman of New Zealand also had several moments before over-coming Welsh number one Adrian Davis 15-13 14-15 15-11 15-10 in a match lasting 62 minutes.

World number four Rodney Martin of Australia, who beat world champion Jansher Khan in the final of the US Open on Saturday, enjoyed a comfortable 15-11 15-4 15-12 win over England's Martin Bodmeade.

Pakistan's Jansher was also in impressive form in disposing of Zimbabwe-born Scotsman Stuart Hallstone 15-7 15-4 15-6.

Kuwait Darts League

Top 7 break clear

AS the Mouchel Kuwait Darts Wednesday fixtures, the eventual winners appear to have been narrowed down to one of seven men's teams.

With these top 7 all winning this week, a 4 point gap has opened up between them and the rest of the field. The most impressive of these victories came from Mugs Away as all four singles players scored 3 or more high scores. Captain Chris Smith led the way with 4 and Chris Haseman's 3 included a 140, as Pacificists only win was that of Larry Banks who also managed 3 100's.

Pacificists returned to winning ways however thanks to a 14 dart 301 leg by Joan Finnegan and Miriam McGuire. Shower of Tossers again proved to be no obstacle for Middle Eastenders, John Morris scoring 3 high scores, but the top of the table ladies clash provided excitement all the way. Dawn O'Dowd helping Lady Tossers secure a point with 2 scoring 111 trebles.

Wearapeep and Soweto Stingers did enough without beating their best to beat a lacklustre Fintas Flyers and a below par Dinar Soaters, backed up by Barbed Comments 4 straight wins, and avenge deserved draw with Fintas as the highly fancied champions once again almost failed to get out of the starting gate.

Has Beans and Bulls Hitters produced adequate displays to hold off Absolutely and Four Play, B.H. Ladies moving to the top on the strength of their 4-0 win over Two Fives and Human Beas produced a first win at the expense of Absolutely yesterday in a game winning streak. Surprise team of the year so far, Chuckers, continued their excellent start flattening No Hoppers, as Dave Gray snatched up the game with an unbeatable 111 performance.

Equalisers disastrous start to the season has finally ended, Nobblers and Nibblers being on the receiving end of a venomous display. Dave Ball hit the season's second 180 in his 4 high scores, backed up by 140's by Hassan Soboh and Alan Wild. Zero-Up also finally got their first win at the expense of Blackouts, despite 140 from Alex McDowell, as Richard Pereira scored a 146.

A good draw though for Blackout Ladies in taking only the second point in splendid form for the home team, as Pat

D'Mello's 100 helped the visitors stay in touch. In the final match Fintas taught Grabbers a lesson or two and proved to be in a different class as Fintas also eased themselves into mid table with a comfortable win. Tony Mostafa did his bit though by scoring a 140.

The full results summary for this weeks Mouchel Wednesday Darts League fixtures were as follows, with ladies' scores in brackets:

	W	L	GF	GA	Pts
Fintas	(3)5	Jabriya G	(1)1		
Has Beans	(3)5	Absolutely	(1)1		
Mugs Away	(1)5	Pacificists	(3)12		
Wearapeep	(1)6	Fintas Flyers	(1)0		
Chuckers	(4)5	No Hoppers	(0)1		
Nobblers	(0)2	Equalisers	(4)6		
Middle E	(2)4	Showers of T	(2)2		
Blackouts	(2)2	Zero-Up	(2)4		
Four Play	(0)2	Bulls Hitters	(4)4		
Dinar Soaters	(3)0	Soweto S	(2)6		

Men's League

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Middle E	7	6	0	1	33	19	121
Has Beans	7	6	0	1	31	14	121
Soweto S	7	5	0	2	30	12	112
Chuckers	6	5	1	0	25	11	111
Wearapeep	7	4	2	1	30	12	108
Bulls H	6	5	0	1	24	12	108
Nobblers	6	2	2	2	17	19	64
Four Play	5	2	1	2	17	13	57
Fintas	5	2	1	2	15	15	55
Dinar S	6	1	3	2	14	22	55
Blackouts	7	2	1	4	16	23	55
Pacificists	7	1	3	3	17	25	55
Absolutely	7	2	1	4	16	26	53
Equalisers	6	1	1	4	13	23	53
Showers of T	7	1	1	5	15	27	51
Zero-Up	6	1	1	4	10	26	51
Jabriya G	6	0	2	4	10	26	51
Fintas F	7	0	1	6	10	32	47
No Hoppers	4	0	0	4	4	20	0

Ladies League

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Bulls H	6	5	0	1	18	6	117
Zero-Dow	6	4	0	2	18	6	110
Pacificists	7	4	2	1	19	9	110
Lady T	7	4	2	1	18	9	107
Barbed C	7	5	0	2	15	11	107
Middle S	6	3	1	2	16	14	91
Equalisers	6	3	2	1	16	7	81
Nibblers	6	4	0	2	14	10	81
Chuckers	6	2	3	1	15	9	77
Fintas	5	3	1	1	12	8	71
Middle E	6	3	1	2	14	14	61
Flies	6	2	2	2	13	11	61
Blackouts	7	2	2	3	12	16	68
Avengers	7	1	2	4	10	18	42
Human	7	1	2	4	10	18	42
Mugs Away	6	1	1	4	10	20	37
Jabriya G	6	0	2	4	9	17	37
Two Fives	5	1	0	4	5	15	27
Fintas F	7	1	0	6	6	22	27
Northern L	4	0	0	4	3	13	0

The ultimate King Size
from Dunhill

Nabisco Masters to start on Nov 28

McEnroe outlasts Connors

INGLEWOOD, California, Nov 21, (AP): In an exhibition of two longtime rivals, John McEnroe defeated Jimmy Connors 6-4 in the Michel Challenge at the Forum.

After breaking Connors in the third game of the second set, McEnroe served up his fifth ace of the night yesterday at match point to win his 20th match against Connors in 34 meetings.

Connors had won their last two meetings, however, including a straight-set victory last month in France.

In the fifth game of the first set, Connors double-faulted at break point to fall behind 5-4. McEnroe held serve at love to take the set.

"I used to beat him in tournaments," McEnroe said. "Now he's beaten me the last couple of times. Today I felt physically much more there. Today I felt I was on him at the beginning."

The competition between the two goes back to the 1970s and culminated with championship matches at Wimbledon in 1982 and 1984. Connors defeated McEnroe in five sets in '82, while McEnroe took the title two years later after beating Connors in straight sets.

"Every time we play it's a good



McEnroe wins 20th match against Connors

match," Connors said. "People come to see that. Tonight they saw damn good tennis."

At a youthful 37, Connors said he sees a few more years of tennis in his future.

"I would like to play to 39 because of Ken Rosewall," he said. "I'm going on 38 now so I know I'm going to play one more year anyway. It was fun for me to play Rosewall when he was 39

and I hope it's fun for the young guys who are now beating me."

In the first match of the night, Jennifer Capriati of Gretna, Florida, defeated Laura Gildemeister of Miami 6-4 6-1. The 13-year-old Capriati won the junior titles at both the French and US Opens.

McEnroe, making his first appearance in the Nabisco Masters since 1986, will face Ivan Lendl and Michael Chang during the round robin portion of this year's event.

McEnroe, placed in the Rod Laver group with Lendl, Chang and Aaron Krickstein, will begin play in the \$3 million event against Krickstein Nov 29, then will face Chang the next night and Lendl on Dec 1.

It was a loss to Brad Gilbert during the 1986 Masters that prompted McEnroe to take his first long sabbatical from tennis.

The six-day, season-ending championship, bringing together the top eight points-players during the season, begins Nov 28 with Stefan Edberg facing Andre Agassi, followed by Lendl-Chang and Boris Becker-Gilbert. In one of the more memorable matches of the year, Chang, despite suffering enormous

cramps, defeated Lendl in the fourth round of the French Open.

Gilbert holds a 4-1 career record over Becker, including a round robin victory in the 1987 Masters.

The round robin will continue through Dec 1, with the semifinals Dec 2 and the final on Dec 3.

In addition to McEnroe-Krickstein on Nov 29, the schedule calls for Becker to play Agassi and Edberg to play Gilbert. Becker and Agassi last played in the Davis Cup semifinals at Munich, with Becker coming back from a two-set deficit to win.

On Nov 30 it will be Lendl-Krickstein. McEnroe-Chang and Agassi and Gilbert, and the round robin concludes on Dec 1 with Becker-Edberg. McEnroe-Lendl and Chang-Krickstein.

With five Americans in the field of eight, tournament director Gene Scott said box office sales are \$500,000 better than last year at this time.

This will be the 13th Masters to be played in New York, but the tournament shifts next year to Frankfurt. Noting the five Americans in the field of eight, Scott said, "It's sort of about time and a little too late."

Bhutto Trophy

LANKA COLTS - Trico - will meet Rangers Cricket Club in a Bhutto Memorial Cricket Trophy match, sponsored by Pakistan People's Club and organised by Golf Cricket League (GCL), at the EPI grounds on Friday. The match will commence at 1.00 pm.

The two teams are: Lanka Colts: Hiran Fernando (Captain), Ralph de Silva, Chris Roville, Oliver, Nalaka, Lal Penna, Bernard, Vimal, Hafeez, Omer, Solomon, Nalin, Senaka, Ramzan Sarif, Ud Din and T.A. Vimal. Rangers: Amjad Ali (Captain), Sajid Razi, Muzamir Hussain, Khalid, Tahir, Shaukat, Basir, Ashfaq Zaidi, Faisal, Imdad, Pillai, Asghar, Aslam and Qaiser.

US World Cup skiteam named

PARK CITY, Utah, Nov 21, (AP): Sixteen US ski team racers were announced yesterday to start in this weekend's World Cup event at Park City, the first time the Cup series has opened in the United States.

Felix McGrath, who is ranked ninth in the world, heads the men's slalom team. He was an automatic qualifier along with Bob Ormsby and Tiger Shaw, who also are ranked in the top 60.

Sandy Williams and Kyle Rasmussen qualified in time trials last week and Kyle Weiche was named to the squad by the coaching staff.

Kifco, BKME and Evergreen win

KUWAIT International Finance Co. (Kifco) maintained their winning streak by defeating New Pak Cricket Club by 70 runs to reach the final of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy at N.C. Ground.

The highlight of the match was a fine unbeaten century by opener Arshad Shams and a whirlwind inning of 57 not out by Pervaz Aslam. After winning the toss, Kifco opened their innings through Arshad Shams and Nasir Ahmed. A solid foundation was again laid by the two openers, who put on 113 runs for the first wicket. The major contribution came from Arshad Shams, whose cuts, pulls, glances, drives and hooks were a treat to watch. He demonstrated great authority over New Pak bowlers and remained not out on 116.

On the other hand Nasir Ahmed, as cool as ever, played a patient innings of 32, his first one below 50 this season. Pervaz Aslam, who has created havoc in Kuwaiti cricket this season, joined Arshad Shams, and dismissed any mercy for the bowlers. His inning of 57 was full of graceful aggression which kept New Pak bowlers and fielders busy.

The New Pak bowlers could only bowl 23 overs in which Kifco managed to amass 221 runs at the average of 9.6. New Pak witnessed a disaster in the very first over, when Shahid Butt had Iqbal caught behind by Nasir Ahmed. Pervaz (33) and Amjad (48) put on 71 quick runs for the second wicket partnership, before the latter was caught by Shahid Butt off Amin. Rafiq Butt then ran through the New Pak innings by taking 3 for 14 and Zamin Naqvi bowled a devastating over which saw 2 wickets tumbling in 3 deliveries. He finished with 2 wickets without conceding a run. Only Mohammad Ali could play the



Arshad Shams



Bader Munir

Kifco bowling attack and he scored 40 runs.

At the end of allotted overs New Pak could only muster 151 runs. A brilliant all-round performance by Ronnie Sr and some fine batting by Sandeep steered the Bank of Kuwait & Middle East (BKME) to a emphatic win over Flying Arrows in a Jashanmal Friday League match played at the Ahmadi KOC New Ground.

Winning the toss, BKME decided to bat and started the proceedings with their regular openers Ashfaq and Salim. Ashfaq was the first to go caught by Norbert off the bowling of Rudy for 5. Salim and Sandeep then put on 61 runs for the second wicket when Sandeep's refusal to back up Salim's call ended Salim's fine innings of 24.

Ronnie Sr and Sandeep then took the score to 145 before Ronnie Sr mistimed a hook into the hands of the keeper. Ronnie's innings of 43 contained 1 six and 5 fours. BKME then lost 3 quick wickets to be 145 for 6 wickets.

other batsmen, besides Ashok, fared miserably against the bowling of Ronnie Sr and Salim, to be all out for 145. Ashok scored a valiant 31 with 1 six and 3 fours.

For BKME, Ronnie Sr was the most successful bowler claiming 4 wickets conceding 32 runs in 6.4 overs. Ronnie Jr claimed 3 for 37 in 7 overs, Salim 2 for 21 in 5 overs, while James had 1 for 34 in 3 overs.

Evergreen crushed Social Club by a wide margin of 80 runs in a Shabbir Memorial Trophy match at the EPI ground on Friday morning.

Evergreen scored to a huge total of 275 in the allotted 30 overs, losing eight wickets in the process.

The main scorers were Baber Chaudhry 79 (with five sixes), Bader Munir 77 (three sixes), Anjum Raza 55 (four sixes) and Shabbir 40 runs.

For Social, Darrel had three for 31 while Paul and Daneesh picked a wicket each.

Needing over nine runs per over against a spinning quartet and tidy fielding, Social were all-out in last over for 195 runs. Salim 65, Ansu 26, Arun 23 and Ajit 22 were the batsmen to do well.

For Evergreen, Bader had three for 30 while Riz Chaudhry, Asad Baig and Anjum Raza each bagged two wickets and one went to Arshad Pindival.

Last week the same teams met at the same ground and Evergreen emerged winners by ten wickets. The abbreviated scores were:

Social 143 all-out (Shiv Bhasin 42, Bittu Singh three wickets, Ejaz Butt and Arshad Pindival two wickets each).

Evergreen 145 for no loss (Bader 101 not out with five sixes and nine fours, Asad Baig 40 not out).

Shabbir Maqbool and Sikander were the outstanding fielders as wickets were well kept by Waqar.

Indian veterans set to face Pakistanis

INDIAN veteran cricketers are set to meet the Pakistani veterans in a Nehru Cup cricket match, organised in connection with the celebrations of the Nehru Centenary and sponsored by the Kuwait India International Exchange Co., on Thursday at the KCI ground.

The teams have been named by the organisers and the game will start at 12.45 pm but the players have been asked to be at the ground by 12.30 pm.

B.N. Malhotra leads the Indian veterans while Ashraf Khan captains the Pakistani squad. The ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait Zahid Saeed will play for the Pakistani side while the Indian Ambassador A.K. Budhiraja will witness the match.

The prizes will be presented to the players by the wives of both the ambassadors while H.V. Rangaswamy, managing director of KJIECO, will inaugurate the match. The prizes have also been donated by Rangaswamy.

Indian team: B.N. Malhotra (captain), S.S.N. Ganju, P.K. Merwah, M.M. Joshi, R.P. Tyagi, D.N. Arora, T.K. Behran, K.S. Sethi, S.K. Khullar, A.K. Gupta, D. Benjamin, S. Sarker, K.C. Gupta, A. Chandhok, C.M. Sahni.

Pakistan team: Ashraf Khan (captain), H.E. Zahid Saeed, Dr Asif Ali, Jawed Chowdhry, Yonus Chaudhry, Haji Sarfaraz, Naseem Farooqi, Yahya, Nisar, D'Souza, Ahmad Hussain, Itar Hussain, Qadir Khan, Haji Hameed, Mohsin Siddiqi, Humayun Ashraf.

Grover and Ajeaz Butt will supervise the match while the scorers will be Virat Vohra and Salman Rizvi.

YBA drops amateur status

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, Nov 21, (Reuters): The Yugoslav Basketball Association (YBA) decided yesterday to abolish its amateur status to simplify contract negotiations with foreign professional clubs.

"The word amateur only contributed to confusion when Yugoslav players were signed by teams in the US National Basketball Association (NBA), and we want to avoid that in future," said Zarko Varjic, president of the YBA council.

"There is no use in keeping the term when it's obvious that players in the Yugoslav top three divisions are not amateurs."

He was referring to a problem earlier this year when Dino Radja, centre of Yugoslav cham-

pions Jugoplastika, signed a simultaneous contract with the Boston Celtics believing he was under no obligation to Jugoplastika because it was an amateur club.

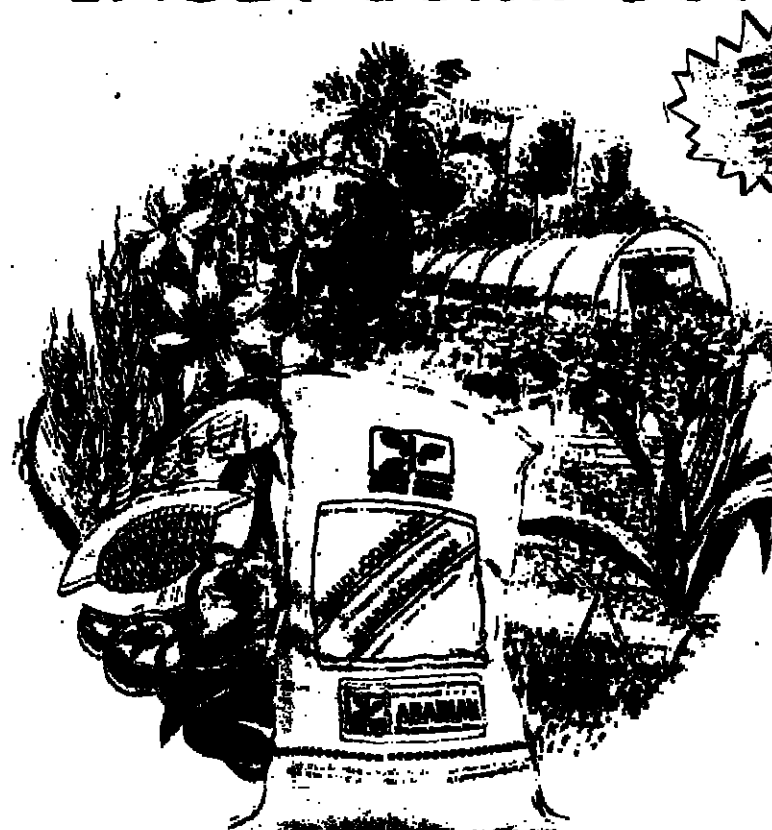
Radja had to return home when a Boston court ruled he had to serve out his contract with the Yugoslav team.

Three other Yugoslavs, Drazen Petrovic, Vlade Divac and Zarko Paspalj, play in the NBA with the consent of their former clubs.

"We also hope that now, when Yugoslav basketball is no more officially amateur, we will have few problems getting these three players to play for the Yugoslav national team when they are needed," Varjic said.

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2.500 KDI Children's chair, blue, yellow - 60 pcs. available

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4.500 KDI Wooden garden flower box - 100 pcs. available

6.000 KDI 20 pcs dinner set - last 300 sets left!

6.000 KDI VIKI, folding chair, blue, yellow - 40 pcs. available

8.000 KDI CENSOR corner unit with 4 shelves - 45 pcs. available

9.000 KDI CALYPSO floor lamp, red - 90 pcs. available

9.000 KDI RODD mirror, 60x105 cm, - 23 pcs. available

10.000 KDI Swivel desk chair in many colours - 1000 pcs. available

11.000 KDI Triangular coffee table, selected colours - last pcs. available

12.000 KDI LACK coffee table, selected colours - 160 pcs. available

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19.000 KDI KABYSS folding bed with mattress - 35 pcs. available

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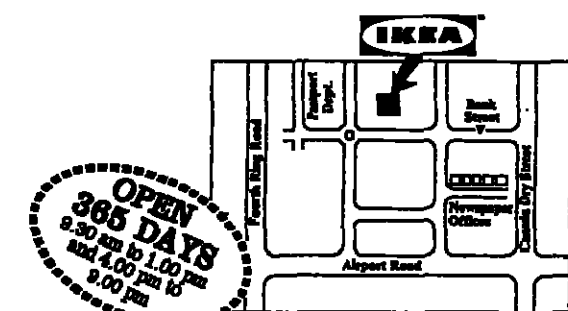
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Maradona doubtful for UEFA Cup tie

Napoli lead Italian assault



Diego Maradona

LONDON, Nov 21. (Reuters): Holders Napoli lead a three-pronged Italian assault in the opening series of skirmishes for the European Football Union (UEFA) Cup tomorrow.

Napoli, Juventus and Fiorentina will all want home advantage to tell as they contest the first legs of their third round matches on Italian soil.

West Germany trump the Italians with four clubs in the last 16 but the nations which contested the 1982 World Cup final clash only once when Napoli entertained Werder Bremen.

Italian League leaders Napoli, who dropped Diego Maradona from their last UEFA Cup team for missing training, may be deprived of their tempestuous Argentine inspiration because of a back injury.

Napoli, who scraped through the second round against Swiss side Wettingen without Maradona three weeks ago, will need to be sharper against the

West Germans and improve on their recent indifferent home form in the League.

Napoli need no reminding that compatriots AC Milan were lucky to survive a quarterfinal against Werder thanks to a controversial penalty decision on the way to winning the European Cup last season.

Juventus, who won the UEFA Cup in 1977, face their encounter with East Germany's Karl-Marx-Stadt in more buoyant mood, encouraged by the fine form of Soviet imports Alexander Zavarov and Sergei Aleinikov.

They are combining well with Portugal's Rui Barros, while new striker Salvatore Schillaci has improved the side's finishing with seven League goals this season.

Fiorentina could take some tips on opponents Dynamo Kiev from Juventus' Zavarov, who played a major role in the Soviet club's superb European Cup Winners' Cup final triumph over

Atletico Madrid in 1986.

Fiorentina's confidence has soared since rising star Roberto Baggio hit a hat-trick and Argentine Oscar Dertycia netted twice in last Sunday's 5-1 League destruction of Ascoli.

"Dynamo Kiev is one of the best teams in the world. We need to make sure we don't let them score here," Baggio said.

Dynamo will be without suspended World Cup striker Oleg Protasov but coach Valery Lobanovskii said this would be no problem.

"We have come here to win," he said, adding a warning to his Italian hosts that sub-zero temperatures awaited them for the return in Kiev.

VFB Stuttgart, Hamburg and Cologne join Werder in West Germany's challenge to the supremacy of the Italians, who won the European Cup and UEFA Cup last season and provided the beaten finalists in the European Cup-Winners' Cup.

West Germany enjoyed the most comprehensive domination in the history of the UEFA Cup when they provided all four semifinalists in 1980 a year after supplying three out of four, including eventual winners Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Stuttgart were entering the fray 24 hours earlier than the rest with an encounter this evening with Antwerp in Belgium.

Hamburg entertain Porto in a confrontation between two former winners of the European Cup, though Hamburg — now mid-table in the West German First Division — are not the force they were when they beat Michel Platini's Juventus to win the premier European club trophy in 1983.

Cologne, pipped for the mid-season League leadership after a 5-3 defeat last weekend, visit Red Star Belgrade.

The clash in Greece between Olympiakos Piraeus and Auxerre of France will have a Hungarian flavour.

Strikers and Rising Stars win

UNITED GOANS' STRIKERS scraped past D'Assisi via a tie-breaker while Rising Stars moved ahead with a 2-1 win over Boys Own Club on the inaugural day of the Rollmans Gold Cup Football Tournament organised by Salote United, the sports wing of the Weekend Club, and played at the Al Sour Grounds on Friday.

The Strikers v/s D'Assisi encounter started at a slow pace and it appeared as though both teams were enjoying the cool weather of a pleasant morning rather than playing serious soccer. The first half saw very little action except for a bold but unsuccessful attempt to score by Strikers' Casimiro.

Both teams, however, came alive in

the second half as Felix Rodrigues opened the score for the Strikers that triggered the D'Assisi lads into action whose Peter Jones lost no time in getting the equaliser.

Joseph Salema, who came in later for Felix Rodrigues, put Strikers in the lead again through a beautiful goal. D'Assisi moved quickly and it was Peter Jones again who levelled the score.

Thereafter, it was a battle for victory between the two experienced teams but to no avail. Despite playing in extra time, the game ended with a 2-2 draw. The tie-breaker was resorted to and the Strikers converted all their shots while D'Assisi were unlucky to have Michael's shot fisted out by the

Strikers' keeper.

In the other game of the day, after surrendering a 2-0 lead to Rising Stars in the first session, goals coming from of Rajiv and Javed, Boys Own Club made a tremendous rally in the second half to reduce the margin through Kevin Negredo.

Earlier in the day, Expats Eleven failed to turn up against Trivim Centre, who moved up by virtue of a walk-over.

On Friday, Santos play Naveim on Ground A and Breeze meet Bombay Boys Club on Ground B at 7.00 am and Al Othman battle New Goa on Ground A and Nasa meet Goan Sporting on Ground B at 8.30 am.

World Cup chiefs studying compromise

ROME, Nov 21. (Reuters): World Cup soccer authorities are studying a compromise plan which would give Spain the last seedings place for next year's finals but also ensure England play in Sardinia, Italian sources said today.

A spokesman for the local organising committee Italia 90 said the six seeds for the tournament would be announced shortly before the December 9 draw.

But soccer sources in Rome said all sides appeared to agree that it would be better for England's infamous fans to be isolated for security reasons.

"Soccer authorities appear to be moving towards a compromise that would satisfy England's security needs and the established criteria for deciding seedings," one source told Reuters.

England have said they hope to receive the seeding vote over Spain to ensure the team play the early stages of the finals on the island of Sardinia, one of 12 Italian venues for the month-long tournament.

World Cup seedings are decided by the International Football Federation (Fifa) on the basis of 1990 qualifying results and past performance in the competition.

Spain claim precedence over England because they were eliminated in the 1986 quarterfinals on a penalty shoot-out. England were knocked out at the same stage when beaten 2-1 by Argentina.

Hall outshoots rivals for crown



The archers with Al Shaheen



Archers take careful aim

THE Kuwait Archery Federation held a competition for senior men at the Hunting and Equestrian Club on Friday. The event was held at the indoor range with the archers shooting a total of 120 arrows over 2 distances — 25 metres and 18 metres.

There was an international turnout of archers from Kuwait, America, France, Egypt, Yugoslavia and India. Despite all the new talent emerging, veteran archer, Phil Hall remained the champion. He shot steadily and accurately to become only the second man in Kuwait to reach over a 1000 points out of a possible maximum score of 1200.

Andre Le Coq from France came 2nd with Hani Bader 3rd. Omar Al Issa was a consistent 2nd throughout the competition until the last round when a few careless mistakes dropped him to 4th position.

The intermediate division went to Dawood Al Ismail closely followed by Uai Krishna Meoun.

For the first time in Kuwait, archery has been

included as a sport for the paraplegics. It is a sport where the disabled can compete on equal terms with the able-bodied over the same distances, using the same equipment with no modification.

Carolyn Tshering, who is instructing the paraplegic archers in Kuwait, said that a Swiss archer in the para-Olympics in Seoul, Korea, attained a higher score than the Swiss able-bodied archer in the main Olympics. "Kuwait has always done well in sports for the disabled," Carolyn explained, "and as archery is one of the three sports mentioned in Islam, it is important that we have an archery team as well."

Sabah Al Kasheera took part in the competition and although not placed he has already proved that despite shooting from a wheelchair, he is going to break all Kuwait's archery records.

The enjoyable day ended with the prizes being presented by Mohammed Majeed Al Shaheen managing director of the Hunting and Equestrian Club.



Sabah Al Kasheera

SPORTS BRIEFS

Dunhill bridge

RESULTS of the Dunhill Bridge tournament (8th week), played at the Mesilah Beach Hotel on Monday evening:

- N/S
1. Tawil & Sabri
2. Sayed Suleman & Dona
3. Magdi & Aien
E/W
1. Dr Adel & Sherin
2. Ravi & Mukherjee
3. Nissar & Ikramul Haq

Malhotra Trophy

THE semifinals of the "Malhotra Trophy" knockout cricket tournament, organised by the Unity Cricketers, will be played on Friday at the KOC New Ground in Ahmadi. In the morning, at 0900 am Starlite face Unity and in the evening at 11.10 pm Kifco clash with Union and umpires nominated are (1) each from Unity and Starlite. Members of these teams are requested to be early to enable a prompt start.

British Rally

NOTTINGHAM, England, Nov 21. (Reuters): Leading positions in the British Rally today after 28 stages:

1. Juha Kankkunen (Finland) Toyota two hours 41 minutes 52 seconds; 2. Carlos Saliz (Spain) Toyota 2:42:15; 3. Kenneth Eriksson (Sweden) Toyota 2:43:11; 4. Pentti Airikkala (Finland) Mitsubishi 2:43:18; 5. Timo Salonen (Finland) Mazda 2:44:43; 6. Ari Vatanen (Finland) Mitsubishi 2:45:00; 7. Mikael Sundstrom (Finland) Mazda 2:45:13; 8. Sebastian Lindholm (Finland) Lancia 2:46:53; 9. Ingvar Carlsson (Sweden) Mazda 2:47:04; 10. Per Eklund (Sweden) Lancia 2:48:14

French team

PARIS, Nov 21. (Reuters): Michel Platini has put off a decision on his future with the French national soccer team until the 1992 European Championship but hinted he is likely to remain as manager. France failed to qualify for next year's World Cup finals in Italy and finished their programme with a 2-0 win over Cyprus in Toulouse on Saturday.

French player

NANTES, France, Nov 21. (UPI): French soccer international Didier Deschamps, scorer of the first goal in Saturday's 2-0 World Cup win against Cyprus on Saturday, will be transferred by FC Nantes to League champion Olympique de Marseille.

Soccer tourney

AMSTERDAM, Nov 21. (Reuters): Ajax Amsterdam are to host an international tournament next spring to compensate for being suspended from European soccer for a season as punishment for crowd violence, a club official said today. Romania's Steaua Bucharest and Spain's Real Madrid have already accepted invitations to play in the Amsterdam event. The fourth side is likely to be Glasgow Rangers.

Match boycott

MADRID, Nov 21. (Reuters): A threatened boycott by Atletico Madrid of their Spanish Cup second-round second-leg soccer clash away to Real Madrid was averted when club members and supporters voted to go ahead with the match. Outspoken Atletico president Jesus Gil urged the boycott after alleging biased refereeing in the goalless first leg, and the matter was put to the vote in a ballot at the Vicente Calderon stadium Turnstiles on Saturday.

E. German stars

EAST BERLIN, Nov 21. (Reuters): East Germany's sports chief, in a move aimed at cashing in on the country's prowess, said today he would permit stars to join foreign clubs from January and also allow teams to find their own sponsors. Klaus Eichler, head of the East German Gymnastics and Sports Federation (DTSB), told national newspapers sportsmen and women nearing the end of their competitive careers would be given the chance to work abroad and then share the earnings with the state.

Irish club

LONDON, Nov 21. (Reuters): New Zealand scrum half Bruce Deans will play for an Irish rugby union club after the current All Black tour ends with Saturday's game against the Barbarians at Twickenham. Deans, capped 10 times by his country, will play for Limerick club Old Crescent, joining fellow New Zealanders Terry Browne, Dave Burrows and Kevin Hill.

Chief coach

LONDON, Nov 21. (UPI): Frank Dick, Britain's chief track and field coach, is to help Scotland's soccer players prepare for the World Cup finals in Italy. He has agreed to work with manager Andy Roxburgh, whose team made sure of a place in next summer's finals with the point gained against Norway last week.

Discover gold

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

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